

## UC sets out tough terms for new social contract

C is setting tough terms for further on on the social contract. A document from the TUC economic committee today calls for a reduction in income tax in 1977-78 of without any promise of offsetting pay. The paper calls for lower interest rates and pensions pay restraint rejected, page 4

## tax cut demanded and higher pensions

The paper suggests that the Government might abandon the present Price Commission to introduce a more selective approach by giving new powers to an independent agency that would examine prices according to their criteria. "This would be an advance if it gave the new agency of the prices secretary special powers to freeze profits and make investigations in cases where excessive profits were being earned even though prices were constant." That issue is being taken up between the TUC and Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

On pensions, the TUC expects the Government to announce an early increase in the National Insurance Fund is substantially in surplus so no extra contributions should be required to meet this expenditure. The TUC suggests an early increase in pensions of £4 a week for married couples and £2.50 for a single person.

In further recommendations, the TUC proposes £1,000m a year for the operation of the National Enterprise Board. The paper estimates that investment by the Government in manpower, taxation and social policy measures will cost about £2,000m in 1977-78. But the effect on the public sector borrowing requirement would be less in the short run.

In framing these Budget proposals, the general principle is an expansion to the public sector borrowing requirement and that this may conflict with the letter of intent (to the International Monetary Fund).

On the other hand two points have to be borne in mind. First, the actual return for the public service borrowing requirement this year is likely to be substantially less than originally thought—at least of the order of £1 billion.

Secondly, it is possible to increase expenditure or reduce taxation by this amount without going outside the strict terms of the letter of intent. Public sector challenge, page 2

Moves against pay curbs, page 4



Jubilee steward: Mr Kenneth "Nobby" Clarke, the air steward who served the Queen 25 years ago when she flew home from Kenya after the death of King George VI, is to look after her again when she leaves Heathrow tonight with the Duke of Edinburgh for Pago Pago, in Eastern Samoa. With Mr Clarke in the photograph are the three British Airways stewardesses on the flight (left to right): Mrs Mary Diana Mindel, Miss Suzanne Dart and Miss Catherine Conroy. Report, page 8.

## President Carter speaks his mind on human rights in Soviet Union

From Fred Emery  
Washington, Feb 8

President Carter disclosed today that he had told Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, he would continue speaking out "strongly and forcefully" on threats he saw to human rights in the Soviet Union, as anywhere else, rejecting the concept that such public exposure might jeopardize détente and agreements on such matters as limiting nuclear weapons.

In his first televised news conference, Mr Carter said he regretted very deeply the "incarceration" of Mr Alexander Ginsburg, the Soviet dissident, and renewed his offer to conclude "a quick agreement" on nuclear weapons with the Soviet Union.

By implication he countermanded Mr Vance, his Secretary of State, in saying the agreement could omit until later the controversial Soviet "Backfire

bomber", and the American "cruise" missiles. Mr Carter said he thought it important to demonstrate to the rest of the world that both superpowers were sincere in trying to lessen their dependence on nuclear weapons.

Mr Carter went out of his way not to chastise the Soviet Union. He did not interpret recent complaints, or the reciprocal expulsions of journalists, as a challenge. "I do not think it is designed to aggravate me, or to test me, or to test the will of the country," he said.

He wanted the American people not to be misled into thinking there were magic answers. "I cannot go in with armed forces to try to change the internal mechanisms of the Soviet Government."

He detected progress, however, in the Soviet Union. The number of Soviet Jewish emigrants had increased in the past few months.

On the question of the nu-

clear balance, he said the United States enjoyed superiority but the situation with the Soviet Union was roughly equal. "In that either the Soviet Union or we could destroy a major part of the other nation if a major attack was made, with losses in the neighbourhood of 50 to 100 million people."

Mr Carter said the threat of this kind of holocaust is what makes it important that we do keep an adequate deterrent capability," he said.

The main emphasis, however, was on disarmament. "The overall balance of mutual restraint, cutting down on overall dependence on nuclear weapons is what counts," he said.

With Soviet-American success in stemming the growth of weapons, the two superpowers could then go to the Chinese, French and British and say "Will you join us?" he added.

Salt negotiator, page 8  
Détente, page 14  
Energy moves, page 17

## Mr Jenkins seeks farm price curb

From David Cross  
Luxembourg, Feb 8

The overriding need to combat inflation in the European Community must be kept to a minimum in the spring, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission said today.

"Consumers rightly insist that our policies for agriculture must be consistent with our other economic objectives," he said. "I have no doubt that the prudent course will be one of price moderation."

Mr Jenkins, who was presenting the Commission's annual state of the Community message to members of the European Parliament, was predicting a further increase in the price of farm products.

Equally, predictably, his 54-minute statement concentrated mainly on the urgent need for the Community to increase its internal strength and coherence.

On the economic front, the Commission faced three "formidable and interlocking" obstacles: the stubborn persistence of high unemployment,

high rates of inflation and the widening gap between the economic performances and real standards of living of the Nine.

The road to greater economic integration must be pursued through the existing system of national policy coordination and by selective intervention of Community resources like the regional and social funds. But the scale and type of resources available from the various funds were insufficient in themselves to tackle fully the problem of economic divergence.

Parliamentary report, page 7

## Sir Harold denies Haines story of Conservative MP offering to sell secrets in exchange for peerage

By Peter Godfrey

Lurid allegations of domestic strife in Sir Harold Wilson's "Kitchen Cabinet" during his years as Prime Minister continued to emerge yesterday and Sir Harold promptly denied vigorously the contention by Mr Joe Haines, his former press secretary, that a Conservative MP offered to exchange party secrets for a peerage.

In the *Daily Mirror's* serialisation of his forthcoming book, *The Politics of Power*, Mr Haines depicted incidents in which Lady Falkender, the former Prime Minister's personal and private secretary, allegedly threw a tantrum at Sir Harold during a Labour Party conference, and in which Mr Gerald Kaufman, MP, now Minister of State for Industry, threw a glass of whisky at Mr Haines.

A further acrimonious scene was described by Mr George Cunn, Sir Harold's former tour manager. Mr Cunn said that he once had to fling Lady Falkender across a room in order to subdue her.

Mr Haines's allegation that approaches were made to the Prime Minister in 1969 on behalf of Captain Henry Kerby, the late Conservative MP for Arundel and Shoreham, to

secure a peerage or knighthood in exchange for party secrets was rebutted by Sir Harold. He said: "I knew nothing about the suggestion that he (Captain Kerby) was going to hand 'election secrets' to Joe Haines or anyone else. I cannot imagine what use they would be."

Sir Harold continued: "The strategy of the Tory 1970 campaign was clear long before, and it worked. In any case it would seem to me highly unlikely that Captain Kerby would ever have been in possession of secret information about his party's plans."

Mr Haines might have confused the incident, Sir Harold suggested, with an occasion in 1965 when Captain Kerby sought the appointment of Deputy Speaker, or with the MP's anger that a journalist was trying to discredit Lord Chalfont, then Minister of State at the Foreign Office. "These are the only two incidents that, so far as my knowledge goes, could have led Joe Haines to make the allegations and they are not in any way discreditable to Captain Kerby."

The late MP's widow, Mrs Enid Kerby, dismissed as "preposterous" the suggestion that her husband would betray the Conservative Party in return for a Labour peerage.

Mr Haines says of Lady Falkender that an incident at the Labour Party conference at Brighton in 1969 was his "first small glimpse of her destructive power". During a discussion about a speech to be made by Sir Harold she "began to rage" about the amount of pipe smoke generated by the Prime Minister, Mr Wedgwood Benn and others. "Everything was wrong, the speech in general and the Prime Minister in particular," he says. She then withdrew and returned home.

Mr Haines maintains that that pattern of behaviour by Lady Falkender was often repeated more violently and regularly produced "an emotional scene, a tirade, just before the Prime Minister faced a major speech or international conference".

Mr Haines describes another gathering in the Prime Minister's study in 1970 when Lady Falkender and Mr Kaufman were present. After some provocation "Gerald flicked his empty whisky glass in my direction, a gesture similar to the one I saw in the *Evening Standard* when the Prime Minister from the room and had begun removing the whisky.

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Vaccinations decline 'may lead to epidemic'

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister found himself accused yesterday of being responsible for the defeat of the Government on Monday night by 130 votes to 129 of the Reduction of Redundancy Rebates Bill, which seeks to place a heavier burden on employers for redundancy payments. He agreed that the Bill was flawed, but said he had thought he was paired.

According to the Conservative whips, three or four ministers must have been under the same mistaken impression. The defeat of the Bill adds an unexpected complication to the Government's already muddled parliamentary timetable.

The same Bill cannot be re-introduced during the present session, so the parliamentary draftsman must be set to work to produce a Reduction of Redundancy Rebates (No 2) Bill, worded differently but achieving the same revision of the redundancy payments scheme.

After the recent dismissal of five parliamentarians for sedition, the Government's defence of the whips, and Mr Callaghan's severe warnings about disciplinary action against other secretaries who may kick over the traces, the Prime Minister came under severe criticism yesterday from the Labour stalwarts who remain at the House late night after night to defend the Government.

One of the ministers who, according to the Conservative whips, failed to vote although not officially paired, was Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was, of course, directly concerned with the effect of the Bill.

It would have reduced the call on the redundancy fund by about £18m in Britain and

## Callaghan 'own goal' complicates timetable

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Mr Healey's office, however, said he had been paired.

Opposition and Labour MPs were under a relaxed two-line whip, and because so few MPs voted it is difficult to check from the division lists who abstained deliberately and who was paired. Only the disclosure of the whips' confidential lists of pairs would enable a full check to be made.

In the Commons, Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, Conservative MP for Tiverton, had a supporting chorus of opposition cheers when he asked Mr Callaghan: "Will you tell us why you secured the defeat of your own Government by not voting last night?"

Mr Callaghan replied: "I understood last night that I was paired. But the lesson for all of us, in view of some of the difficulties about pairing sick members yesterday, is that if the Opposition is setting a trap perhaps we had better be a little more careful in future."

The Conservatives denied laying an ambush. Indeed, their whips seem to have been as lenient as the government whips in allowing MPs to drift away.

The total of Labour MPs, ministers and backbenchers, officially not paired with the Conservatives was 32. They included Sir Harold Wilson.

The Liberals were not out in full strength, but Mr Alan Beith, their chief whip, complained to Mr Barney Hayhoe, an opposition spokesman on employment, for saying that "the Liberals were not with us on the vote" when the Government was defeated. Mr Beith said that was untrue; if it had not been for the votes of three Liberals the Government would not have been defeated.

## British mission re

Salisbury, Feb 8.—Security forces hunting the killers of seven white missionaries said today that nationalist guerrillas had attacked another mission, setting buildings on fire. Church officials said a guerrilla bomb threat had also forced a mission school for 300 girls in another part of Rhodesia to close.

No casualties were reported in the attack on Nyashanu mission in south-east Rhodesia, where a statement said, guerrillas took £4,000 in cash and set fire to an office and workshop yesterday.

The school closed after a bomb threat at Bonds, only 18 miles from the Mozambique frontier. "I understand that a letter was received over the weekend in which terrorists threatened to bomb the school," a spokesman for the Anglican diocesan African education office said today.

A Botswana court today jailed a three-man Rhodesian tele-

## Second mission attacked and girls' school closed

vision team for six months for illegal entry and illegal possession of a firearm. The Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation said here.

They were alleged to have carried a rifle in their car and to have had no proper entry documents when they crossed into Botswana last weekend to cover attempts by black 300 children to return home rather than enlist with the guerrillas.

Quoting Botswana court officials in Francistown, the corporation said the three men, two whites and one black, were not given the choice of a fine when they appeared in court. They would serve their sentences in Francistown central prison.

The men's wives have asked the International Red Cross for help and the question of an appeal is being investigated, the corporation said.—Reuters.

## 'Frankenstein' project given go-ahead in US

From Peter Strafford  
New York, Feb 8

The scientists at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology won a victory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, last night when the city council voted unanimously to allow them to carry out advanced genetic experiments in the field of what is termed recombinant DNA research.

This means that molecules of the genetic material DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) from different species are combined and transplanted into living cells. Traits and capabilities of one species, such as humans, could be transferred to other forms of life, such as bacteria.

The decision came after months of controversy and public hearings, in which scientists, environmentalists and others expressed fears of where the research might lead.

Opponents said today that

they intended to carry on the battle to prevent the research in Cambridge and elsewhere in the United States. They say it might lead to the creation of some new organism which humans would have difficulty in controlling or resisting.

Mr Alfred Vellucci, the Mayor of Cambridge, has talked of "some sort of Frankenstein" emerging from the laboratories. Other opponents talk of a pathogenic agent which would cause disease, or else argue that scientists have no right to embark on experiments which could lead to "an absolute biological catastrophe".

A board appointed by the city council recommended approval of the research, provided there were regulations to control it, and this has now been adopted by the council. A Cambridge Bio-hazards Committee is to be set up to keep watch on the research.

## pledge re ies

ic and unqualified European Court of the security forces employ five specialisation techniques, and white noise, as in Mr Silkin, the hoped it would end the dispute. Page 2

## play

Birmingham City first international tie recalled. But Don Revie has Hughes and Mills. man Fox, page 10

## Judge orders strikers back to work

A judge in Utrecht last night ordered Dutch strikers back to work at a number of meat processing plants. It was the second court victory for employers, but with industrial unrest spreading, a bitter battle still seems in prospect. Page 7

## Bug cuts phone bill

Bradford City Council was told that its telephone bill had dropped by a fifth after it had started monitoring calls, many of them private, made by its staff. Page 4

## Dilemma for Israel

Israel has before it the choice of reaching accommodation with Damascus over the advance of Syrian troops in Lebanon to within a few miles of the Israel frontier or of preparing for war. Page 8

## Japan offers Europe ships concession

Japan has offered to increase the price of ships for export to help end the deadlock with Europe over the crisis in world shipbuilding. It proposes restricting exports to European countries whose shipbuilding industries are in difficulty. Page 17

## Aid for homeless

Homeless people, including battered wives and gypsies, will have a right to take the chair at a conference of a Bill published with all-party backing. Local housing authorities will be obliged to provide accommodation for homeless people in priority groups. Page 5

## Moderates' leader

Labour moderates are looking to Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, as their leader against the Left. It emerges last night that he is to take the chair at a conference to rally support for the Government. Page 4

## Race: Plans for the staffing and structure of the new Commission for Racial Equality are criticised

RAF's new plane: The RAF's next fighter-bomber is to be a single-seater built jointly by Britain and West Germany. Page 5

## Delhi: The ruling Congress Party pledges in its election manifesto that it will 'preserve and consolidate democracy'

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West Germany's burdens greater than Britain's, according to her Ambassador; Bernard Levin on the eternal Government game of opposing the powerful. Page 5

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# More of Eastern Europe, more often.

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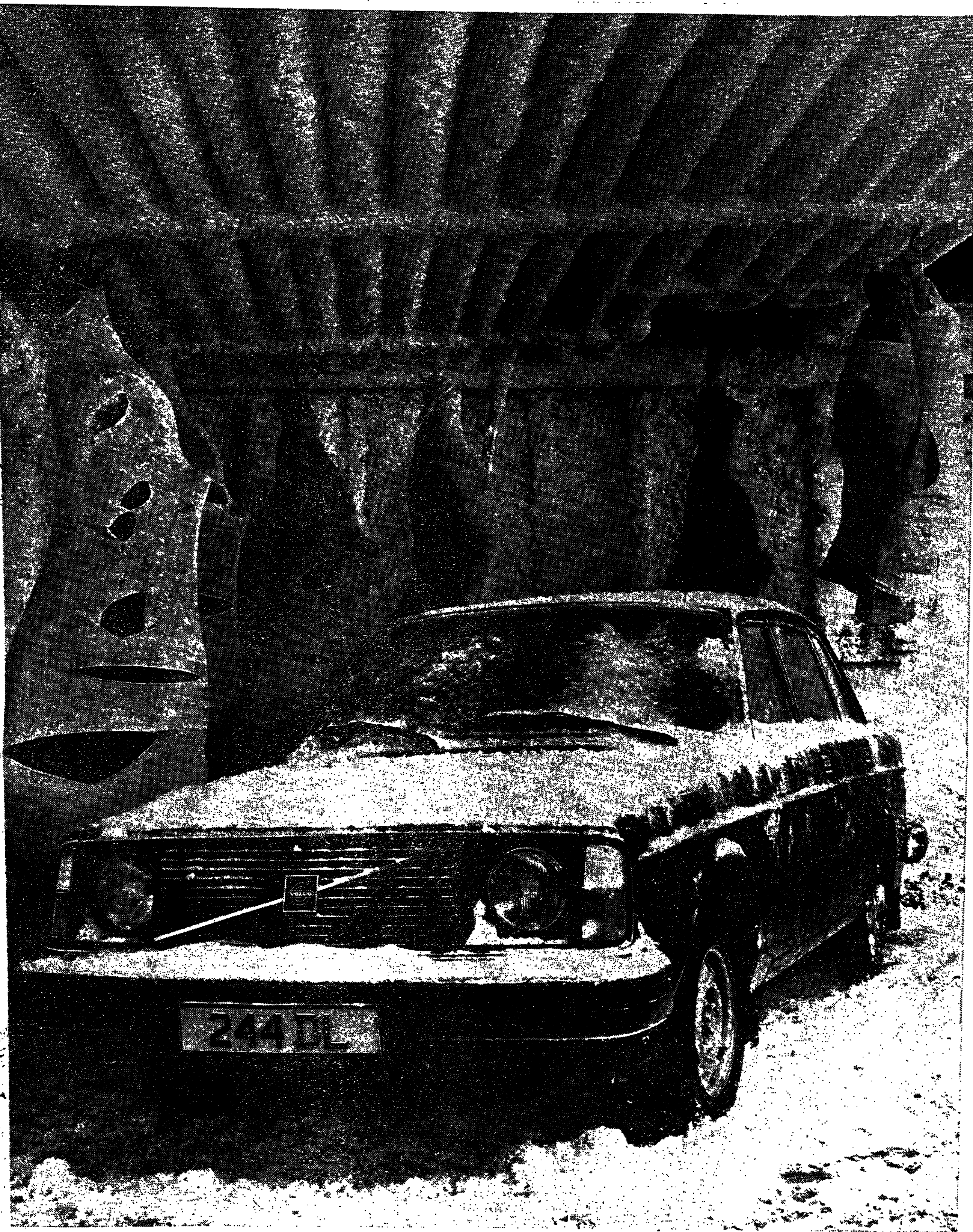
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HOME NEWS

# New pay curb rejected by pit moderates and Ford conveners

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Leaders of the TUC meet today to discuss how to regenerate union support for continuation of the social contract with the Government in the face of mounting shop-floor opposition which culminated yesterday in a vote of no confidence in the Government's economic policies by the traditionally loyal Nottinghamshire miners.

With Ford Motors shop stewards demanding an end to wage restraint, the TUC's influential economic committee will meet this morning to decide on the form of representation to the Chancellor on how he should frame his forthcoming Budget. A special conference "to exert greater influence" on Mr Healey is planned.

A confidential preamble to the draft TUC economic review being considered by the committee today suggests a conference of chief officers of all affiliated unions to be held in advance of the Budget, which the unions have reason to believe will be in the last week of March.

The purpose of the conference would be to enable the union movement to exert greater influence on the Chancellor on prices, unemployment and economic policy, thus meeting a desire among the unions for greater consultation on government policy. "However, this procedure would not rule out a further conference at a later stage," the paper adds.

While the contents of the lengthy draft review were being digested by union leaders yesterday a resolution deploring the "abysmal failure" of government economic policies and demanding free collective bargaining in the mining industry topped the poll at the Nottinghamshire miners' conference.

It won 208 votes, compared with 178 for a demand for a £15 wage for face workers from November 1. That claim would entail rises of more than 90 per cent, in direct conflict with the Government's wage restraint programme.

Both the resolutions were adopted despite an hour-long defence of the social contract by Mr Lawrence Daly, general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, who has championed the restraint cause at TUC congresses.

That unexpectedly tough attitude by normally moderate pit delegates from Britain's second largest coalfield coincided with a move by shop stewards to join their colleagues in British Leyland in a

revolt against extension of the social contract.

The Ford conveners' committee called on the TUC not to be misled into another round of manoeuvring to impose unacceptable policies on the workers. A conference of Ford shop stewards will be held in April to work out a pay demand for 1977, but the shop-floor leaders said it was clear that there was no support for a continuation of wage restraint.

Toolmakers are threatening to strike at Ford's Dagenham plant from next Monday over a pay claim.

Mr John Cousins, a contender in the election for a new general secretary for the Transport and General Workers' Union, moved quickly to support the Ford workers, most of whom belong to the union he would like to lead.

He said yesterday: "The social contract has finally crumbled, and I share the views of the Ford motor car workers who say 'enough is enough'. I believe we have to return to free collective bargaining as an urgent priority. Otherwise Britain will be plunged into even more unnecessary strife: a union official against his members."

While Mr Cousins' remarks may be taken as election rhetoric, increasing opposition from such strategically placed leaders of shop-floor opinion as Ford and British Leyland shop stewards, and the Nottinghamshire miners, whose moderate president, Mr Len Clarke, has in previous years held them to a policy loyal to the Labour Cabinet, must give rise to increasing concern among TUC leaders responsible for negotiating another year of wage restraint.

The idea behind a special TUC conference of trade union executives, possibly to be followed by a special congress to bring unions into a binding agreement with the Government, is designed to further the cause of the social contract, not to provide a platform to oppose it.

That is why Mr Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, is opposing any general recall of the congress merely to rubber-stamp negotiations between the TUC's six representatives on the National Economic Development Council and Cabinet ministers.

He voiced his opposition at a secret left-wing meeting in Birmingham at the weekend. His stand will be taken up by militant shop stewards to join their colleagues in British Leyland in a

# Moderates look to Mr Rodgers as a leader

By Michael Hasfield

Labour moderates last night were projecting Mr William Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport and an old campaigner in the party's internal struggles, as their putative leader to meet the challenge of the left.

That became evident when it was learnt that the moderates are organising a conference of Labour activists throughout the country later this month to discuss what action might be taken to rally support for the Government and to build up party organization.

Mr Rodgers has accepted an invitation to take the chair at the initial meeting, which has been partly organized by Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, chairman of the centre-right Manifesto Group of Labour MPs, and Mr John Cartwright, a member of the group who is also on the national executive committee of the Labour Party.

Moderate Labour MPs have been conscious that their cause lacked a leader ever since it was known that Mr Roy Jenkins was to leave Parliament, and it now looks as if Mr Rodgers has been persuaded to fill the vacuum.

Mr Rodgers is a doctory fighter for the moderate cause having shown a talent for organization during Labour's fight over unilateral nuclear disarmament. He was one of the key figures in the Campaign for Democratic Socialism, which successfully set out to reverse the 1960 annual party conference decision to "ban the bomb".

Whether Mr Rodgers will accept the mantle of Mr Jenkins remains to be seen, but the moderates believe he has been much more active to persuade Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to accept the role.

It can be stated authoritatively that there is no rivalry. Mr Rodgers has enormous admiration for Mrs Williams' capabilities and is known to be among the group of moderate ministers who would like to see her as the next Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Those who are privately canvassing that idea recognize, however, that she needs to have more experience as a senior Cabinet minister.

The calling of the conference of Labour moderates will coincide with a detailed statement of its ideals and objectives published by the Manifesto Group. That will give unwavering support to the moderate economic and social policies, and will criticize indiscriminate nationalization.



Three guillemots, cleansed of oil by Kent RSPCA staff, being left by an RAF helicopter crew on the Goodwin Sands for the tide to carry them out to sea. The birds had swum back to shore each time an RSPCA man had rowed them out from the Kent coast and left them.

# Race commission plans criticized

By Neville Hodgkinson  
Social Policy Correspondent

The latest proposals for the future staffing and structure of the new Commission for Racial Equality are meeting widespread criticism. The plans, which replace an earlier, unacceptable draft require the approval of the Civil Service Department and the Government. They were sent to the Home Office last week.

Some minority group leaders are afraid that their chances of direct cooperation with the commission's staff have been weakened because of the role now envisaged for community relations councils.

Another complaint is that the plan over-emphasizes the law enforcement functions of the new body and give inadequate attention to community help and advice. It is argued that staff of 221, for example, only nine will be directly concerned with the functions of the commission's staff have been weakened because of the role now envisaged for community relations councils.

The new commission is due to start operating fully at the end of March. It will assume the functions of the Community Relations Commission and the Race Relations Board.

One of the critics is Dr Alan Little, director of reference and technical services at the Community Relations Commission, who is on the new commission's steering committee and is expected to become one of its directors.

In a letter to Mr David Lane, the chairman-designate, he complains that the proposals will reduce staffing for research and advisory work and dilute expertise on discrimination other than that defined in a narrowly legal sense.

"The distinction in the paper between discrimination and disadvantage is one I can accept as far as the law is concerned, but it is meaningless as far as effective promotion of equality of opportunity is concerned," he writes.

"Education authorities do not want to know whether young black people are functioning badly because of direct or indirect discrimination or racial disadvantage: they have to be made aware of the situation, persuaded to do something about poor performances, and given the guidance and resources on what to do if black children are to have equality of opportunity."

Mr Courtney Laws, director of Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association and chairman of a group of about 35 minority association leaders,

wrote to the Commission for Racial Equality yesterday complaining that the staffing proposals fail to give enough emphasis to the need for liaison with minority groups.

The commission has also received a memorandum from Mr Surendra Kumar, principal liaison officer at the Community Relations Commission, who says: "It would be fatal if we lose the confidence of the ethnic minorities at this critical juncture, especially as so much time and effort has been spent in exploring and developing this kind of liaison work."

Last week the Runnymede Trust argued that existing priorities were based on Home Office assumptions over which there had been inadequate consultation. In particular, it asked the commission to reconsider the organization of its promotional and advisory work.

Mr Lane said yesterday that ethnic minority work would not be neglected. "We want to develop and enlarge it," he said. Equally, there was no intention of diminishing the effectiveness of the Community Relations Commission's promotional and advisory work.

"We are simply proposing some redeployment of skills to take account of the changed functions of the new body."

# Report out today on dependants

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A report to be published today will advise the Government on whether it should institute a register of immigrants' dependants.

The report was prepared by a team of three, headed by Lord Franks, the Liberal peer. The other members were Mr Sydney Irving, Labour MP for Dartford, and Mr Mark Carlisle, QC, Conservative MP for Runcorn.

The formation of the group was suggested last July by Mr Roy Jenkins, then Home Secretary. Mr Whitelaw, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, had said that the British people wanted to know whether a time was in prospect when no more immigrants would be entitled to come here.

A succession of people have been to the Indian subcontinent to try to gauge numbers and pressure by dependants to come to Britain.

Mr Alex Lyon, Labour MP for York, has said that his dismissal as a Home Office minister was due largely to his attempt to reduce the time that Asian dependants waited to get here.

# Industry out of favour in students' survey

By David Walker  
The Times Higher Education Supplement

University students see themselves as much more fitted for Civil Service jobs than for industry, according to a survey of the attitudes of final-year students conducted last summer.

The survey's findings are likely to form the basis of a speech to be made this afternoon in the Lords for the Government by Lord Winterbottom. He will be speaking in a debate on the need to increase the esteem in which industry is held by young people.

Students interviewed for the survey viewed industrialists as successful, organized, energetic, narrow-minded, ambitious and with a technical bent. By contrast students saw themselves as broad-minded, anti-authoritarian, unambitious by money and anxious to work with people rather than things.

Market and Opinion Research International asked students at 18 universities in England and Wales to grade the qualities they thought were necessary in an industrial and Civil Service career. Civil servants were said to be like working with people, to be hardworking and responsible and generally doing a useful job.

# Cuts 'will mean fewer police on the streets'

By Stewart Tendler

Government cuts in expenditure for policing will result in fewer officers on the streets, the Home Secretary was told yesterday by representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers, which represents chief constables in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Yesterday Mr Peter Marlow, Chief Constable of Surrey and the association's president, raised with Mr Rees the effects of planned cuts.

According to a statement from the association Mr Matthews, accompanied by two other chief constables, told Mr Rees and senior Home Office officials that the reduction in the use of civilian staff would result in fewer police officers on operational duty.

Village beat: Villagers in remote areas of Northumberland have lost their local policeman are to get him back, once a fortnight. He will start calling regularly in the villages in the same way as mobile library operates, the Northumbria Police Authority was told yesterday.

He will park his police station, a converted van, on the village green so that local people can visit it to talk and get advice.

# Council saves by bugging staff

By Robert Parker

Bradford City Council, which monitored telephone calls made by its staff for four weeks last year, was told yesterday that a fifth of its telephone bill is attributable to private calls from its offices. The council estimates that at least £12,000 a year could be saved by the deterrent effect of permanent monitoring.

For the first two weeks of the monitoring, last September, no one but staff called the city hall and outlying offices. Conversations were not recorded.

A report from the management services division, which carried out the survey, to the council's management committee, which met yesterday said that the council's telephone bill was £490 lower in the second period than in the first. In the first two weeks an average of 17,595 calls were made each week, at a weekly cost of £1,195. In the second two weeks 15,479 calls on average were made each week, at a cost of £950. Thus in the second period the average weekly saving was £245.

The number of calls made fell

by 13.8 per cent in the second period, and the total cost by 20.5 per cent.

Most of saving would come from reducing the number of private calls, and some by removing inefficiencies in the telephone network revealed by the survey.

Bradford hired Call Information Logging Equipment to record the destination and duration of all outgoing calls from the city hall and outlying offices. Conversations were not recorded.

A report from the management services division, which carried out the survey, to the council's management committee, which met yesterday said that the council's telephone bill was £490 lower in the second period than in the first. In the first two weeks an average of 17,595 calls were made each week, at a weekly cost of £1,195. In the second two weeks 15,479 calls on average were made each week, at a cost of £950. Thus in the second period the average weekly saving was £245.

The number of calls made fell

# NHS unrest blamed on frustration

By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

The serious decline in morale in the National Health Service is often said to be due to lack of money, but equally important, if not more so, is the deep sense of frustration experienced by most doctors, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists said yesterday.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service, the college said that the working conditions and exacting specialities such as our own know how near complete breakdown of the service has been in many areas. By breakdown we mean the danger of unnecessary loss of life and the serious delay in the restoration to health of the sick.

To help to remedy the service, the college suggested that area health authorities should go that there should be consultation with the profession, the Government and trade unions to determine the cause of present unrest, and that the Department of Health and Social Security should be replaced with a health service commission or corporation to remove the NHS from the "constantly changing influence of politicians".

In the early years the service worked well, the college said. Hospital staff were given authority and the help of the administration. Today general practitioners were frustrated by inadequate facilities, junior hospital doctors were still seeking a well-defined career structure, consultants had had their authority challenged by hospital workers, they were underpaid and lacked supporting junior staff.

Reorganization of the service had led, among other difficulties, to "enormous numbers of directives emanating from faceless people at the centre, often with scant regard to the profession's opinions and without the provision of money for the directives to be implemented". There was also, perhaps, a failure by doctors to appreciate the needs of professional managers and administrators.

Much of the good will previously abundantly shown by doctors and nurses had been lost because of frustrations experienced in day-to-day practice. Many administrators had lost sight of the fact that a hospital exists for patients and is not an opportunity for expanding the lower tiers of administration.

It was almost impossible to dismiss staff. Work seemed to be created for its own sake and no one asked why. Reams of paper were produced which created a chain reaction: those working at the "grass roots" found it difficult to understand the need for so many directives and the setting up of committees and the ineffectual action at the end of it all.

# Talks fail to find formula for nuclear-fuel transfer

By Pearce Wright

British, French and Japanese negotiators are making little progress towards finding a formula for transferring the United States for the transfer of spent nuclear fuel from Japan for reprocessing at Windscale, Cumbria, and at La Hague, near Cherbourg.

American agreement is vital because the spent fuel, from American-designed atomic power stations, was supplied originally by the nuclear division of the United States Energy Research and Development Administration, and as potential weapons material the fuel is not transferable to another country.

Arrangements proposed over a year ago for shipping spent nuclear fuel, as part of a long-term £400m reprocessing contract for British Nuclear Fuels, are not acceptable to the United States arms control agency.

That is an added complication for talks being held in London among British Nuclear Fuels, Cogema (the French reprocessing company) and 15

representatives from Japan. The talks are already in difficulty because of uncertainties about expansion at Windscale for a new reprocessing plant which would separate useful uranium, plutonium and long-lived radioactive wastes from the spent fuel.

The Japanese delegation met Sir John Hill, chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, and Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday over the Windscale dispute, which concerns the safety and wisdom of building a new type of reprocessing factory for enriched-oxide fuel.

American anxieties relate to the plutonium. The Japanese claim to the ownership of plutonium created in the country's reactors is not acceptable to the United States.

Proposals being prepared in Washington recommend an internationally controlled system of regional reprocessing centres, of which Windscale could become one. The suggestion has not been supported by Britain or by the French.

# Tory lead baits Prime Minister on Marx

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent

As if the Labour Party had not in enough trout Thatcher did her best Commons yesterday, a Marxist albatross to already firmly fixed a Government's neck. As a charitable nature, now begin to feel a few of pity for poor Mr C

What with Sir Harold Mr Joe Haines, de direct elections, Lady F Mr Wedgwood Benn, Monday the last of a second reading just be took the night off. d Minister might be e certain irritability.

Still, Mr Callaghan now, be coming to this rather like cocoon s must be prepared to everything thrown at t whatever as we are t told by her public relat may be one of the swe most charitable of peop off moments, but som force seems to take o she faces Mr Callagha question time on Tues Thursdays.

The Conservative knows full well that i Minister is rather too Marxists in the Labo Kinder to a people's mess Mrs Thatcher to avai the wretched man on that is clearly painful. Not so.

The right hon lady just the woman to ha told in a good fool. While Mr Callagha attempted to keep changes on a lofty p Thatcher went straight jugular. With one of l terial signs, the Prime told his tormentors w was pursuing points i unworthy of her.

Did the Prime Min demn the Marxist inf his party, she shoud he depend too much for getting his through. "As for Marxism, i where I stand on that not intend to spend t ing with issues which thing to do with my p sterial role," Mr roned.

"Answer the quest change," Mrs Thatcher Did he, or did he no the support of Marxis him in power?

Mr Callaghan wrig erably. "I would welcome a question more than the right hon is welcome or condemn port of fascists in Party. What is more not even insult her a question like that."

But Mrs Thatcher's mood for appeasement ever Mr Callaghan about condemning she would have not th hesitation in wholly ing fascism anywt shorter. Mr Callaghan said i discourage the disc philosophical ideals t help to shape our s was not afraid of Ma discussion should no fused with support.

# Firework m fined £100

Anthony Kenny, of "Holroyd" Avenue, Harrow, London, was fined £100 for "too big" fireworks. "to biggest firework of night", was fined placed on probation years by Harrow a yesterday for illega facturing gunpowder licensed premises.

It was stated that Kenny had exploded and lost his left hand, his right arm were both legs were injur will lose the sight of

# Protest over uranium survey in Orkney

By Ronald Faux

About 400 people opposed to uranium mining in Orkney marched through Kirkwall yesterday in the first demonstration the town has seen, as the island council's planning and development committee rejected an application by the South of Scotland Electricity Board to survey for uranium ore in a "corridor" north of Stromness.

About 3,500 protests have been delivered to the council. The committee agreed to urge the full Orkney Island's Council to reject the application, despite assurances by three electricity board officials at the meeting.

The board may appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland to overrule Orkney's objections and allow the survey of uranium deposits to go ahead. It wants to sink boreholes at locations near Cairston Mill, Blackhall, and near Yensaby, on the Atlantic coast.

Mr Graham Lapsley, chief executive of the Orkney Islands council, said the committee took the view that since the islanders were totally opposed to allow any mining for uranium there was little point in allowing the exploration holes to be drilled.

Their opposition was based chiefly on the damage that would be done to an attractive part of Orkney. The structure plan for the islands made clear that no form of industrial activity, including oil-platform building or petrol refining, would be allowed in the area. To those structures they wanted to add uranium mining.

The electricity board had reached agreement last November on access to carry out the The agreements to clause giving extract and options to buy c valuers' prices. The mal practice, the plan was to erect supplies should any Geological evidence that the Orkney dep be promising.

The proposed has been financed p tured in Orkney. The duct similar explo Helmsdale, on the coast, and at Ban miles west of Aberd clearly regards nucl as an important fut of electrical energy.

# Art institute has to close because of oil blockade

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham closed yesterday because its oil supplies had been stopped by pickets of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. Officials said that without oil they could not control the humidity level required for the paintings.

The institute, although completely independent, is on the campus of Birmingham University, where technicians belonging to the ASTMS have been on strike for 22 weeks in a dispute over holiday entitlement.

It contains works by many eminent artists including Gainsborough, Reynolds, Turner, Hals, Rembrandt, Van Gogh, Monet and Degas.

# Building societies to head will keep mortgages off road

New arrangements with building societies for maintaining the level of local authority lending for house purchase and improvement yesterday were announced by Mr John Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Authorities will receive mortgage allocations totalling £273m in 1977-78, of which the building societies expect to be able to provide £157m.

Mr Shore, making his announcement in a Commons answer to Mr John Ems, Labour MP for Brigg and Scunthorpe, said the arrangements were designed to maintain local authority lending for house purchase in 1977-78 at the level envisaged before the public spending cuts.

# Building societies to head will keep mortgages off road

Mr Shore said: arrangements will c direct lending by loc ties and lending by societies to applican to them by authori loans will be re applications who co within the existing priority categories a unable to obtain society mortgages.

Authorities have increasingly concerne that building societ filling the gap left tions in the amount to councils for mort ing.

Because of the adu burden it has been d building society lendi restricted to about largest councils.



ME NEWS

## Widowed wives and gypsies among priority groups entitled to permanent home in Liberal's Bill

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

A Bill to give priority to people, including widowed wives and gypsies, will be introduced by the Government in the House of Commons today. The Bill, which will be known as the Housing (Priority Groups) Bill, will give priority to people who are in need of accommodation. It will also give priority to people who are in need of accommodation. The Bill will give priority to people who are in need of accommodation. It will also give priority to people who are in need of accommodation.

## Wordsworth site not to have houses built on it

By John Chatterton

The view of the fields from under the yew trees beside Wordsworth's grave in Grasmere is to be preserved, after all.

The Lake District Special Planning Board announced yesterday that its development control subcommittee had refused an application for the building of 14 expensive houses on a site behind the Rothery Hotel in the centre of the Wordsworth village and alongside the famous churchyard.

## RAF's new plane to be Anglo-German project

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

The new fighter-bomber aircraft for the RAF is to be a joint Anglo-West German project, and may bring in other members of the Nato alliance, Whitehall sources said yesterday.

Coded the AST (air staff target) 403, the project has already been the subject of much negotiation between the British and the Germans. The British Aircraft Corporation and Hawker Siddeley Aviation are expected to submit firm designs to the Government within the next few weeks.



Top of the show-business pops: Penelope Keith and John Inman yesterday.

## Penelope Keith named as top personality

Miss Penelope Keith was named yesterday as show business' most promising artist. She was selected for her performance in the play *Donkey's Years* and her role as the woman next door in *The Good Life*, the television series.

## Three injured in house explosion

Three boys aged 15 were badly burnt in an explosion in a derelict house at Crewe, Cheshire, yesterday. They were taken to a hospital intensive care unit. A police officer said: "Certain articles had been removed from the house for examination and gas board officials were investigating."

## Insulation policy rather than nuclear power

Baily

Contemporary society, the study says, is like "a great steaming cauldron" of a fossil-fuel fire demanding continuous supplies of concentrated energy that have taken billions of years to accumulate.

Energy supplies will clearly become more and more a controlling element in world development, demanding "the biggest readjustment of aims and attitudes we have ever had to face". The study proposes:

# Will the career you choose make full use of your educational achievements?



take more initiative and responsibility on your own. You'll be part of the team.

## The challenge of the big cities

As well as valuable experience, your first two years will provide a springboard for the rest of your career. All your pre-conceived ideas of the work will have gone and you might decide that the Uniform Branch gives you the variety and satisfaction you seek. Or you may be looking for the chance of a more specialised role - in Traffic or the CID for example.

## The Police College

The police service gets all its leaders from within its own ranks. So it is always on the lookout for the men and women of the future. You might be one. If so the Police College at Bramhill in Hampshire is bound to play an important role in your career.

	LONDON (including metropolitan allowance)		PROVINCES	
	Starting	Rising to	Starting	Rising to
CONSTABLE	£2,748	£3,408	£2,400	£3,024
SERGEANT	£3,786	£4,344	£3,402	£3,960
INSPECTOR	£4,540	£5,200	£3,960	£4,614
CHIEF INSPECTOR	£5,200	£5,875	£4,614	£5,286
SUPERINTENDENT	£6,978	£7,242	£6,222	£6,918

Current maximum rent allowance varies from £420-£580, according to area (half for single officers).

Find out more about a police career. And make the most of what you have to offer.

To: Police Careers Officer, 4th Floor, Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LT.

Please send me an illustrated brochure on training, life and career prospects in the police:

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in full-time education? Yes/No \_\_\_\_\_

## A POLICE CAREER

Makes the most of your youth, brains and education

F41

## Front street destroyed

Members of the army promised Mr. Man in the High Street to destroy a road of a leaflet campaign photograph of a school's attack to consist of black pupils.

## Resort JPs cut late-night drinking hours

Licensing magistrates for Torbay yesterday cut drinking hours at several clubs and hotels as part of a police campaign to beat increased drunkenness and vandalism.

## Railhead will keep lorries off road

The 1974 Railways Act aimed at transferring freight from road to rail. It brings to 16 the number of grants to far from £4m. Thirty-three more grants are due to be made.

Take a good look at what you've achieved so far. You're 18½ or over. You've got a good education and you've worked hard to get it. You've passed your 'A' levels. You may have gone on to take a degree.

But what happens next? You've been through the advertisements, they all say the same thing. "Wanted: young men and women with ability, ambition, initiative. Good prospects."

## Graduate Entry Scheme

Any graduate or undergraduate in the final year of a full time degree course up to the age of 30 should consider the advantages of the special entry scheme. Any University or CNAAC degree is acceptable.

## Use your education to the full

From the start a Police career will stretch you, use all the initiative, education and ability you possess. It's rewarding too but you'll have to earn the rewards. You'll need to learn a lot (and fast) - and put that knowledge into use in tricky situations.

If you're ambitious you'll be glad to know that promotion is on merit, not seniority. And your education will stand you in good stead as you take on greater responsibility and more demanding work.

## Theory and practice

There's a lot to learn during your first two years in the police. And it isn't easy. You'll go on courses, including one lasting several months at a Police Training Centre. You'll also have to build up practical experience, by getting down to real police work with your own force. Under guidance at first, you'll gradually













## OVERSEAS

## Mozambique's rulers mix their Marxism with economic realism

From Nicholas Ashford  
Maputo, Feb 8

The process of building a socialist society in Mozambique will be a long and difficult task, Mr Marcelino Dos Santos, vice-president of the ruling Frelimo movement, told the party's third congress which has just ended in Maputo.

He is Frelimo's chief economic policy-maker and this expression of economic realism, which preceded the announcement of a relatively moderate and undocile list of economic directives, was a refreshing change to all the heady rhetoric of the congress.

It could be an indication that despite the public espousal of Marxist-Leninist doctrine, Frelimo's approach to the task of national reconstruction may be more pragmatic than expected.

Whether this pragmatism will extend to other spheres remains to be seen. But judging by the pronouncements at the congress, Frelimo has emerged as a Marxist party in the Soviet mould dedicated to the development of "scientific socialism" at home and to the expansion of "the world anti-imperialist front" abroad.

Unlike other Marxist-inclined parties in Africa, which are ruthlessly anti-capitalist as might have been expected, a degree of free enterprise will be permitted and foreign capital will continue to have a role so long as it coincides with the party's objectives. Furthermore, for the moment there is to be no rigid economic plan but rather a series of general objectives.

Similarly, the party's international orientation may not prove to be quite as strongly pro-Soviet as the presence of large numbers of Soviet block delegates at the congress seemed to suggest. Observers noted that Frelimo leaders have referred directly to the Soviet Union or its allies when pledging Mozambique's support for the struggle against "colonialism, racism, neo-colonialism and imperialism".

The push for closer ties seems to be stronger in Moscow, East Berlin and Havana than perhaps it is in Maputo.

It would be wrong to overemphasize this point. Mozambique has firmly placed itself in the socialist camp and, with the aid of Chinese influence, the Soviet Union and its partners are Mozambique's natural allies.

Similarly, the tendency towards pragmatism in economic thinking should not be taken as an indication that the Marxist basis of the party will be significantly diluted. Socialism is the ultimate goal and adherence to Marxist-Leninist principles is the means by which it will be reached.

The reconstruction of the economy will be based firstly on agriculture, which provides a living for 90 per cent of the population. Emphasis will be laid on the construction of communal villages and the establishment of cooperative farms.

The second phase will involve the development of industry and, more particularly, the reactivation of industries which have run down since independence and the mass exodus of Portuguese technicians.

The final and "decisive" phase will be the establishment of heavy industry which, according to Mr Dos Santos, will "create conditions of real equality" and raise the political consciousness of the masses.

Mr Dos Santos said the main aim was to restore the levels of agricultural and industrial production by 1980 to those prevailing in 1973—a realistic (if modest) objective bearing in mind the problems the country faces. In particular he hopes to reduce food imports, which he estimated at about \$40m a year.

For a Marxist party the economic directives are not as ruthlessly anti-capitalist as might have been expected. A degree of free enterprise will be permitted and foreign capital will continue to have a role so long as it coincides with the party's objectives. Furthermore, for the moment there is to be no rigid economic plan but rather a series of general objectives.

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This process has already begun. Land and rented accommodation were taken over last year, education and health have already been nationalised and many factories and plantations which were abandoned by their Portuguese owners have effectively come under state control.

## Queen leaves tonight on jubilee journey

By Roger Barthoud

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh leave Heathrow Airport, London, at 10.25 tonight for their six-week jubilee tour to Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Papua, New Guinea.

Before joining the royal yacht Britannia on Thursday morning (local time) at Pago Pago, Eastern Samoa, they face 21 hours 15 minutes of flying. This excludes a one-hour wait when the British Airways 707 touches down at Los Angeles.

From Pago Pago it is a seven-hour cruise to Apia, in Western Samoa, where the celebrations will begin, with dancing, ceremonies and obligatory libations from the traditional welcome cup, consisting of a potion called kava.

It is the Queen's first visit to Western Samoa. Apia is thought to have been the setting for Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* and the residence of the head of state was once the author's home.

And so across the International Date Line to Tonga, an independent monarchy within the Commonwealth, whose monarch, King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, is probably the largest in the world, though he is said to have shed some four of his 20 stones as a jubilee year gesture.

After two days in Fiji, there will be a restful three days at sea on the way to Auckland, New Zealand, where the Queen will be greeted on February 22 by Mr Muldoon, the Prime Minister, and Sir Denis Blundell, the Governor-General.

It will be the Queen's fifth visit to New Zealand since her accession, and she will spend 10 relatively informal but strenuous days there working her way from north to south. The aim, New Zealanders where she arrives on March 8 for her sixth visit—is to be seen by the largest possible number of people.

One foreseeably delicate stage of the visit will occur in Canberra where Sir John Kerr, the Governor-General, has been the object of considerable public odium since he dissolved Mr Gough Whitlam's Labour government in November, 1975.

The royal family has studiously kept out of this controversy, which has, however, made many Australians ponder deeply on the Queen's constitutional role in Australia. Her three weeks there—with four days in Papua, New Guinea, and end in Perth on March 30. Six days in Canada are scheduled for mid-October, possibly followed by a visit to the Caribbean.



Dr Waldheim inspecting war-torn Beirut yesterday before flying to Amman.

## Waldheim arrival in Jordan

Amman, Feb 8.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, said today he might seek clarification of a statement in Brussels by Mr Yigal Allon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, that his country had "no intention of giving the United Nations any role in peace negotiations in this area".

Dr Waldheim said at the airport that he had been assured by the Israeli Government before he left New York "that they were looking forward to my visit and were interested in discussing the situation". Mr Allon's statement "did not change the attitude of Israel towards the United Nations".

He said his impression was that the leaders with whom he had talked so far—President Sadat of Egypt, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, President Hafiz al-Assad of Syria and President Sarkis of Lebanon—were seriously interested in resuming the negotiating process as quickly as possible.

They wanted, he said, "to get down to the substance of the problem and not just to procedural matters".

King Husain has issued a warning against over-optimism, lest it lead to a false impression that a solution to the Middle East problem is imminent. In an interview published here yesterday, the King said no solution could be achieved unless Jerusalem was returned to Arab sovereignty.

Whether the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) should attend the conference is a leading issue.

Dr Waldheim is to meet Crown Prince Hassan at breakfast tomorrow, and then hold a lengthy discussion with King Husain.

Official sources said the talks here would cover the political aspects of the Middle East issue, the Geneva conference and the parties that would attend it.

## Behind outward calm Seoul and Tokyo are apprehensive over US troop withdrawal

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Feb 8

Recalling how Japan has achieved its rapid economic growth rate under the American defence umbrella, a senior Japanese official downed his drink at a diplomatic cocktail party the other day and said: "The long calm days are over. We are about to enter the storm."

He was referring to President Carter's decision to withdraw gradually the remaining 30,000 American ground troops from South Korea.

From outward appearances both Japan and South Korea have accepted the announcement with a show of calm resignation. After his recent meeting with Vice-President Mondale in Tokyo, Mr Takeo Fukuda, Japan's Prime Minister, appeared untroubled by the unequivocal statement confirming the planned withdrawal. He merely said in a statement that Japan did not intend to intervene in what he considered a bilateral issue between Seoul and Washington.

But behind the outward calm, both Japan and South Korea are seething with apprehension. A change in the military balance on the Korean peninsula and a further reduction of American forces in north-east Asia could force Japan, against its wishes, to assume a greater responsibility for the security of the area. The American withdrawal might persuade Japan to increase defence spending and

## Japan's dilemma over security role

From Peter Hazelhurst  
Tokyo, Feb 8

expand its armed forces, thus provoking a sharp constitutional and political controversy at home.

The Japanese Government fears that the lack of an American military deterrent in South Korea might encourage a communist onslaught. A conflict on the peninsula might have a large influx of South Korean refugees into Japan.

Japan's Defence Agency is already studying contingency plans to move Army units—traditionally stationed in northern Japan—to the southern island of Kyushu, the closest point to South Korea.

The American decision has also cast a shadow over Japan's vast economic interests in South Korea. During the past 15 years Japan has poured \$1,700m in loans and investments into South Korea, which has emerged as its most lucrative market in Asia. The two-way trade between the countries is expected to reach \$2,823m this year. Moreover, Japan has traditionally enjoyed an annual trade surplus in the region of between \$1,100,000 and \$2,200,000.

Although Mr Mondale assured both Seoul and Tokyo that American forces would be withdrawn from South Korea only under a carefully phased programme, the South Koreans are visibly upset. The promise that the United States will maintain a strong air capability in the area has done little to assuage their fears.

## Carter men review Ford weapons pledge to Israel

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Feb 8

Now that the United States has refused permission for Israel to sell 24 of its Kfir fighter bombers to Ecuador—they have American jet engines—it is being asked here how far Israel is being compensated by the Carter Administration. The sale would have brought Israel about \$150m (\$88m).

Authoritative officials confirm that Israel will receive \$285m extra in economic assistance this coming fiscal year. But they point out that Arab countries in the area will receive aid increases in rough proportion to Israel's. Thus Egypt's total would be raised to \$750m for the year, Jordan's to \$220m and Syria's to \$90m. Aid to Israel would amount to \$1,785m for fiscal 1978.

However, it is far from clear that Israel will receive the advanced weapons, including tanks, artillery, infra-red sights for aiming in the dark and the controversial "aerosol" concussion bomb, which creates a firestorm through an ignited

## Carter men review Ford weapons pledge to Israel

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Feb 8

petroleum spray. Suddenly, President Ford on the election.

A remark by Mr Dinitz, the Israeli Ambassador here, is said by Americans to have been aimed at assuring that Administration that these weapons.

Mr Dinitz said he reason to doubt Carter Administration's commitment to Israel. But this was not linked to the weapons.

Our Jerusalem correspondent writes: There was dismay in Israel at the news that the Carter Administration would be contrary to policy against the advanced military Latin America—ru to claims here the had been chosen in competition with from the United France.

any of these was declared.

The hawkish accusation of wanting "unilateralism". He has not advanced it. While the hawkish accusation of wanting "unilateralism" would be an American in the hope that it would follow suit.

It looks like he fight. The most important for Mr Carter is the Soviet Union, as the current emphasis over human rights, earnest over the purposes limitation Warnke's appointments.

## Naming of Salt negotiator raises hackles in Senate

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Feb 8

Feathers were flying today as defence hawks and doves grappled in the Senate over President Carter's nomination of Mr Paul Warnke to head the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. Mr Carter also intends Mr Warnke to head the American delegation in the strategic arms negotiations (SALT) with the Russians.

In the past six weeks Mr Warnke has acquired a strong reputation as an "arms control" steadfastly opposed to a further race in nuclear weapons. This, his supporters argue, is what the job requires; there are plenty of hawks elsewhere in the Administration to argue in favour of keeping up the guard at any cost.

But a previous Salt negotiator, Mr Paul Nitze, was not of his serious misgivings to the senate foreign relations committee.

"I am concerned that Mr Warnke, who has spoken with such certainty on matters of military requirements, weapons capability and strategy, may none the less not be a qualified student or competent judge of

## In brief

## Soyuz links up with Salyut

Moscow, Feb 8.—The Soyuz 24 spacecraft with two cosmonauts on board docked tonight with the orbiting Salyut 5 space laboratory, one day after the launch.

The crew, mission commander Viktor Gorbunov and flight engineer Yuri Glazkov, were feeling well and were carrying out their flight programme, Tass said. The docking was the first with Salyut 5 since its first crew completed a five-week stay last August 24.

## Post mortem verdict

Hongkong, Feb 8.—A post mortem examination on Mr William Crum, the China-born American businessman, whose body was found in his burnt-out home last Saturday, showed there were no suspicious circumstances about his death, police said.

## Beached whales perish

Mayport, Florida, Feb 8.—About 200 pilot whales threw themselves on to a beach near here and, despite a two-day rescue effort by marine officers and volunteers, nearly 80 have died. Scientists are conducting autopsies to find out why the whales came ashore.

## Warning on Namibia

Britain and the other members of the European Community have warned South Africa that its intention to set up an interim government in Namibia (South-West Africa) does not meet with their approval.

## Coups plot trial

Marrakesh, Feb 8.—Seventeen members of a Moroccan left-wing opposition party, the Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires, have gone on trial here accused of plotting an attempted coup in March, 1973.

## Minister quits

Brasilia, Feb 8.—Senator Severo Gomes, Minister of Trade and Industry and one of Brazil's most controversial politicians, has resigned after calling for greater political freedom.

## Sudan reshuffle near

Khartoum, Feb 8.—President Nimeiri has relieved Sudan's Prime Minister and his Cabinet of their posts, but has asked them to continue until a new Cabinet is announced.

## Plane lost in desert

Addis Ababa, Feb 8.—A Swedish light aircraft carrying an unnamed Briton, a Dane and a Swede is missing in Ethiopia's Ogaden desert.

## Commitment to democracy in Gandhi manifesto

From Kuldip Nayar  
Delhi, Feb 8

The ruling Congress Party has pledged in its election manifesto that it will "preserve and consolidate democracy".

The 5,000-word document, which Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, today issued personally, has reaffirmed that the party's destination is socialism and that it will step up its war against poverty, disparities and social injustice.

Unlike the 1971 manifesto, it goes out of its way to promise that democracy will not be diluted. This is because of the attack the opposition has launched on what it calls the "authoritarian rule" of Mrs Gandhi. The manifesto says that "the commitment of the Congress Party goes back to its very inception and its faith in democracy is absolute, irrevocable and unshakable".

Mrs Gandhi points out that the Congress was not a one-person party but one representative of all sections of the people.

She spoke of the need for stability which did not mean one person staying in authority

but that the "ship of state should be on an even keel". She also gave warning against the danger of casteism rearing its head again. This danger, she said, had been there in the past but the new role of the opposition was far more casteist and tended to encourage casteism.

There is special mention of family planning in the manifesto. It emphasises the importance of curbing population growth, but categorically states that there cannot be compulsion. "It will be a voluntary movement and it will be a people's movement."

The manifesto is by no means radical and appears to be steering a middle course. The argument is that the party has been doing well in the economic field and will do better.

Delhi, Feb 8.—President Ahmed of India, who is 71, has called a tour of Malaysia, the Philippines and Burma on medical advice.

An official statement said he had cancelled his engagements in Kuala Lumpur today because of fatigue and indisposition.

## Arms show warship not going to Japanese ports

From Our Correspondent  
Tokyo, Feb 8

An unconventional attempt by Britain to penetrate Japan's lucrative arms market was abandoned today when it became apparent that the Royal Navy's support vessel, *Lyness*, which was due to arrive in March with a display of military weapons and craft, has been denied access to all of the country's main ports.

The proposed visit, which set off a minor but embarrassing diplomatic controversy, was officially called off this afternoon when the British Embassy in Tokyo announced that a request for berthing facilities for the *Lyness* had been withdrawn.

British diplomats have conceded that selecting Tokyo, a well known stronghold of Japan's anti-militarist movement, as the original site for a blatant exhibition of arms sales, was a diplomatic blunder.

Last month, Mr Ryokichi Minobe, the Governor of Tokyo, a committed pacifist, rejected the request for a berth on the ground that the visit might start violent demonstrations. The Foreign Ministry subsequently informed the British Embassy that it would sound out local administrators in other ports.

But apparently Mr Minobe's initial decision stimulated similar reactions at other possible sites.

Japanese officials claim they

## Indonesia denies massacre in East Timor

Jakarta, Feb 8.—Indonesia has denied a report in *The Times* that Indonesian volunteers fighting in the East Timor civil war in 1975 massacred residents of China.

Mr Abdurrahman Gusadirdja, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the Indonesians had protected the Chinese community in East Timor and many of its members had sought shelter in Indonesia.

The reports of the alleged massacre originated from Mr James Dunn, a former Australian consul in East Timor. The report was published on February 1.—Reuters.

## Tanzania allows stranded tourists to cross border

From Our Correspondent  
Nairobi, Feb 8

President Nyerere of Tanzania was reported today to have officially acknowledged for the first time that his country had closed its border with Kenya since last week.

In an interview in Dar es Salaam, he said the move was in retaliation for what Tanzania considers to be a series of Kenyan moves to demolish institutions of the East African Community.

Tanzania claims that Kenya, by withdrawing additional financial support, brought about the

recent collapse of East African Airways (EAA), which is jointly owned by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Tourists stranded in northern Tanzania by the sudden closure are now being allowed to cross into Kenya after obtaining special permits.

Meanwhile, several hundred tourists have now been flown from Kilimanjaro airport in Tanzania in special flights. A British Airways aircraft arrived here early today with 194 on board, having made a special halt at Kilimanjaro on its regular flight from Johannesburg to Nairobi.

## Reporter's tapes confiscated after Czech tour

From Our Correspondent  
Berlin, Feb 8

The United States Embassy in Prague has protested strongly to the Czechoslovak Government about the harassment to which it says Mr Leslie Collitt, an American correspondent, has been subjected. Two tapes and 90 pages of notes prepared during a recent trip were confiscated.

Mr Collitt, who reports for the National Broadcasting Corporation and for the *Financial Times*, was interrogated for two hours by several Czechoslovak officials last Friday on the train to Dresden in East Germany where he was delayed for eight hours.

During his stay, apart from meeting officials, Mr Collitt says he also spoke with economists, people from the Charter 77 civil rights movement and with the "man in the street".

When he protested about confiscation of the tapes and letters he was told he might possibly get them back at a later date. His data, it was explained, violated Czechoslovak laws.

Prague, Feb 8.—Spokesmen for the Charter 77 movement said today they had asked Parliament to rule on the legality of the document.

Mr Jiri Hajek, for a brief period Foreign Minister in the Dubcek government, and Mr Jan Patocka, a philosopher, said they had made the request in a letter a few days ago to the federal Assembly, in which they contested the right of the

federal prosecutor to rule on the charter's legality.

At the beginning of last week, Mr Hajek and Mr Patocka were summoned separately to the prosecutor's office where they were told that the manifesto was illegal and were warned that they faced legal action if they continued their campaign.

In their letter to the Assembly, the two noted that the prosecutor had made no mention of any laws or regulations violated by the signers of the charter, which they said conformed to the final statement adopted last summer by the human rights movement started in the last century," he said in an interview in his home on the outskirts of Prague.—New York Times News Service.

observance of laws and not the interpretation of laws, which was the prerogative of the constitutional court.

Western interest in and reactions to the manifesto were not a result of the document itself, they said, but of the campaign begun by Czechoslovak authorities against the signers.—Agence France-Press.

## Eight Zagreb men for trial

From Our Correspondent  
Belgrade, Feb 8

Eight air traffic on duty last Sep Zagreb when a Brit and a Yugoslav died in a head-on collision killing all 176 have been committed for gross negligence.

If found guilty a maximum sentence of jail. The trial date fixed, but it should take place a fortnight, charges are brought.

All are accused of rules and of action to regulations. The also speaks of slack and of a chaotic flight control.



# ENTERTAINMENTS

## PERA AND BALLET

**THE ROYAL OPERA**  
T. GARDNER, 2.10, 10.05 (69531)  
The Royal Opera (69531)  
T. GARDNER, 2.10, 10.05 (69531)  
The Royal Opera (69531)  
T. GARDNER, 2.10, 10.05 (69531)  
The Royal Opera (69531)

## THEATRES

**BRIDGE OF WATLES** 01-530 6091  
Evening 7.30, 9.15, 10.15  
MICHAEL CRAWFORD  
MICHAEL DOVICH in  
SAGE TIME NEXT YEAR  
"TRUTH FOR CRAWFORD"  
Evening 7.30, 9.15, 10.15  
MARK KINGSLEY, J. THORNE  
YARROO  
"Spellingbinding"  
Evening 7.30, 9.15, 10.15  
ROBERT MORLEY  
JULIAN OCHSLEY  
AN HONOUR TRAVELER  
BANANA RIDGE  
"MILKMAID SUCCESS"  
Evening 7.30, 9.15, 10.15  
ST. MARTIN'S, 8.30, 10.15, 11.30  
S. 2.40, 4.15, 5.45, 7.15, 8.45, 10.15  
WORLDWIDE THEATRE  
25th YEAR

## CONCERTS

**THEATRE** 01-536 7611  
JON'S BEST NIGHT OUT  
JON'S BEST NIGHT OUT  
JON'S BEST NIGHT OUT  
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## THEATRES

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# THE ARTS



Postwick Grove, Norfolk, by J. S. Cotman

## Endless pleasure

In the upstairs gallery at Agnew's, at that hour in the afternoon when a dinner-switch seems to be operating on the decision has not yet been made to turn on the electricity, it is easy to forget that the last century has happened. A young man is taking his young lady round the 104th Exhibition of Watercolours and Drawings; he greets every other painting with a loud cry of recognition—"Rye!", "Winchester!", "Magdalen!", "Windsor!"—and then, when peering to check the artist (Fielding, Varley, Turner, Robert Hills) discovers also that they are in fact looking at Deal, Durham, Christ Church or Kneale. The young lady remains appreciative and in-

terested throughout these geographical reversals; her manners would readily have passed muster at Agnew's 4th Exhibition. Like reading accounts of cricket matches attended, recognizing (more-or-less) places visited is an English pastime. My own idiosyncrasy in that line was to take pleasure at a view of Bournemouth by Lawrence Burt, looking much as it must have done when Gerard Manley Hopkins spent summer holidays there with the Jesuits from St. Bueno's College.

On a more painterly note: the exhibition (over 275 works in all and open until February 18) contains some lovely de Wint's, a solid late Cotman, and a delightful Cox, Milking Time, whose small area of broken lively brushstrokes endures a rather static screen of drawings and fully justifies his experiments with technique. And when the electric lights were turned on and some subtleties lost, the theatrical effects of Francis Nicholson's Tintern Abbey could be enjoyed, and the fascinating sheet of minute sketches by George Richmond studied more fully.

Paul Methuen (1886-1974), rather like Duncan Grant, continued to paint energetically as an old man because it was an activity which he loved. The Fieldhouse Galleries (63 Queen's Grove, NW7) have a selection of works taken from his studio after his death, and spanning a long period. They make no pretence to

before, flying over the Ypres salient, I think it was, with everyone arguing about whether it ought to have been fitted with machine-guns, or possibly patrolling the Indian ocean and pitching dangerously as maroons fought with surgeons about oil prices.

The physical context, as ever, was perfectly caught; not simply the look of a school, for that is easy enough, but the feel and smell and taste of a school were utterly right. So too the teachers, from the pipe-clenching traditionalists in beige tweed to the young irreverents in denim, hungry for a mould to break.

As the champion of the former, Frank Windsor might have spent his entire working life preparing for the role and had it a justice to which the ceremony did not fully entitle it. Generally in fact, casting of staff and pupils was faultless. But were the roles for which they had been thus deftly cast not too predictably ill-assorted, in order to cast them for clashes which institutional drama requires?

Isn't that perhaps the wrong way to create drama, by envisaging a conflict and then peopling it, rather than the other way about? That is the method by which subtlety has been killed in so many of Headmaster's siblings, by which complexities have been reduced to formulae, and, worst of all, life exchanged for melodrama.

gent and felicitous without any descent to the merely charming. His attack, always precise, seemed more than ever perfectly gauged, and his balancing of counterpoint always clear, was here quite faultless. Given such technical skill, the music could move as if under the impulse of its own laws. There was nothing forced or superfluous.

In some ways this considered performance of a miniature was more remarkable than some of those that followed, when occasionally there was the feeling of something too exactly controlled, almost algebraic. Thematic returns in the opening movement of the Pastoral Sonata, for instance, came back again and again, as if the flow of this long Allegro was hindered. Instead of progressing, the music kept returning on its tracks.

Much more often, however, Mr Brendel's way with a phrase or with a movement was right as to be unquestionable, and so beguiling as to defy dissent. His touch of humour at his own virtuosity in the middle movements of the Pastoral or his many clean shades of expression in so many other movements were all things that no one could resist.

## Fragile and familiar

### Alice in Wonderland Round House.

#### Ned Chaillet

Schoolchildren seem nowadays to be given their theatre in special presentations which adults, excepting teachers, hardly ever see. In these dire times for actors such productions can draw excellent, if eccentric, casts. But if too much of the thought behind the production goes into pleasing children instead of creating theatre, the children may end up enjoying the production more for the pantomime calling and for the cast's excursions into the audience, than for the spectacle itself. Such is what I believe happens with Malcolm Sircorn's musical adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, playing in the daytime at the Round House. His cast is fragile and foolishly up-dated with allusions to things "made in Hongkong" and familiar riddles: "What is the difference between an elephant and a pillar box?" It does not much benefit from Roy Skelton's frenetic, and frequently inaudible, production. The cast includes several young performers who are at their best when scrambling through the audience in an effort to avoid being made into soup by the Duchess. The Duchess is played by Beau Daniels, who is mercifully audible at all times, but her lines consist mainly of the repeated chant: "It makes me very cross"; with the final words, of course, shouted by the audience.

Mr Sircorn's songs, some including verses by Lewis Carroll, are for the most part, sleepy, undramatic things, with the main exception of a very Broadway croquet game which opens the second act. Their lack of a particularly commanding rhythm may partly explain Mr Skelton's resort to blatant pantomime tricks.

Young children, however, are a great audience, willing to forgive actors who become inaudible by turning their backs on spectators, and identifying with an Alice who speaks well but seems to lose her voice when she sings. It is precisely because children are such a good audience that they deserve excellence. Pandering to their simplest responses, homogenizing all stories to pantomime simplicity, is not producing children's theatre but simply bad theatre.

shows his comic power just as much in the first scene, revealing just how little brotherhood there is in the fraternity. The two perpetually bickering cronies, an alcoholic Korean veteran and a Jewish doctor, have nothing in common except residence in a boring place and the prospect of going home to angry women. Like the colonel, they have also all come to a stop and their conversation consists of bickering monologues on individual obsessions.

Mr Jones uses those partly to build up a picture of "Bradleyville" past and present, and as a means of combining exposition with characterization. They also supply a marvelous delaying tactic before the climax: the collision of egotisms repeatedly throws the dialogue back on itself, and every move to get on with the ritual is blocked by another looping return to discourses on blood-relationships or the colonel's memories of meeting General Pershing. At the same time, the comedy expands socially in episodes like the loss of the sacred rule book: a stunned silence falls on the company when the colonel admits that he has entrusted it to the black doorman. This is an absolutely traditional American muralist comedy with the difference that it contains no clumsy flash-backs or orgies of truth-telling, and that it replaces sentimental affectation with some of the company place undue comic reliance on the southern twang, and the production needs a central performance more authoritative and more ga-ga than Ramsay Williams's youthful colonel. But after performance as good as that of Richard Moore, Ronnie Letham and Ian Hogg, that sounds like quibbling.

## The Last Meeting of The Knights of the White Magnolia Hampstead

#### Irving Wardle

Nothing has taught me more about Texas on a trip two years ago than the plays of Preston Jones. *Knights of the White Magnolia* is the second part of his Texas Trilogy, which originated in Dallas, proceeded to Washington, and now arrives in London in the hands of our resident Texan director, Michael Rudman, who has confirmed my belief that this intensely local work would transfer as brilliantly as O'Casey. This is a moment for saluting a fine new writer.

We are at a meeting of a little fraternity to the right of the Ku Klux Klan. Once it has lodged across the country and bands turned up for its rallies, but all that survives is a lone outpost out in the west Texan panhandle where a handful of middle-aged men still meet to drink and play dominoes in a gentlemanly club owned by the senior member, a five-starred army colonel for whom the clock stopped with the First World War. Now, incredibly, they have a new recruit in the person of an asthmatic, flat-footed youth from the next town: and the knights prepare for a full-dress initiation ceremony.

The piece reaches its ludicrous climax in a masonic parody, with a cigar-chewing barman, a supermarket manager and other members robed as the great heavenly sages of the past. The play is a pastiche of the young Lonnie Roy on his pilgrimage to the Golden Fountain of Truth. But Jones

Mel Collins, and Ann Odell's keyboards. That neither she nor Manzanera was allowed as much lightning as Spedding was the concert's one disappointment. The thick textures were complemented by three singers Kokomo, the men, in dark blue with white belts and lanyards, looking and behaving more like a band of outrageous camp millionaires as the evening wore on.

Then of course, there was Bryan Ferry. In an extraordinary way he conveys simultaneously icy detachment from, and intense involvement in, everything he sings. This was nowhere more apparent than in the powerful impressive title track of his new album "In your mind".

He sings without musical affectation but expresses to perfection the meaning of each song. Even when he reworks old Roxy numbers like "Casanova" or "Love is the drug" and even more accurately with non-Roxy material like "These foolish things" his style and personality totally erase memories of the original. His music is undeniably eclectic but its great strength is that it creates its own originality.

## ART GALLERIES

**AGNEW GALLERY**, 45 Old Bond St., W.1  
10.30-5.30, 10.30-5.30  
WATERLOO EXHIBITION  
10th February, Mon-Fri, 9.30-5.30  
11th February, Sat, 10.30-5.30  
ARTISTS: MARK STONE, EARTHAN ST. SCOTTIE WILSON  
DAVID MESSING, 11 St. James's, S.W.1  
An exhibition of art and painting over two centuries, 1600-1900, Monday to Saturday, 10.30-5.30, Monday 12.30-5.30. Catalogues available.

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## Headmaster BBC 2

#### Alan Coren

The British Broadcasting Corporation is at its proudest when handling an institutional blockbuster. That is possibly because the corporation is the archetype and paragon of the form. Since all fathers wish to spawn off a spring in their image, we should not perhaps be surprised that the characterisation of BBC dramatic biggies concerns a giant organization filled with paranoiacs putting their loggers together to the point where the great totality trembles, but, and this is very important, the totality is not.

It does not matter much which organization inhabits these showpiece series, called variously, but not very variously, *Warship*, *Wings*, *Angels*, *Mogul* and so forth. Nor does it matter whether the BBC those shuffling at one another are bunsens, tailgunners, oilmen or dynastologists. What matters is that the physical circumstances of their trade be meticulously and accurately reconstructed and that the organization be infinitely fissile.

Thus, *Headmaster*. As I watched the first of this six-partter unreel on Monday, I could not suppress the thought that I had seen William Berkley Comprehensive School

gent and felicitous without any descent to the merely charming. His attack, always precise, seemed more than ever perfectly gauged, and his balancing of counterpoint always clear, was here quite faultless. Given such technical skill, the music could move as if under the impulse of its own laws. There was nothing forced or superfluous.

In some ways this considered performance of a miniature was more remarkable than some of those that followed, when occasionally there was the feeling of something too exactly controlled, almost algebraic. Thematic returns in the opening movement of the Pastoral Sonata, for instance, came back again and again, as if the flow of this long Allegro was hindered. Instead of progressing, the music kept returning on its tracks.

Much more often, however, Mr Brendel's way with a phrase or with a movement was right as to be unquestionable, and so beguiling as to defy dissent. His touch of humour at his own virtuosity in the middle movements of the Pastoral or his many clean shades of expression in so many other movements were all things that no one could resist.

## New music at Cardiff

Six new works will be heard in the Cardiff Festival of Twentieth-century Music, to be held from March 5 to March 19.

James Galway gives the first performance of the Malcolm Arnold Flute Sonata with Anthony Goldstone (March 19), and Paul Tollerer will conduct the premiere of Alun Hoddinott's French Suite by the London Mozart Players (March 13).

Martin Neary's organ recital includes a new work by Timothy Taylor (March 11), and other first performances are Carl Briant's Piano Sonata, M. Charpell-White's Duo Sonata for two pianos, and Howard Watt's Violin Sonata.

Among the principal events are recitals by Victoria de los Angeles and John Lill. Seven orchestras and ensembles are taking part, including the opening concert by the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, and other members of the Korean violinist Dong Suk Kang plays the Sibelius Violin Concerto.

Kenneth Loveland

## Bernard Leach at the V and A

The Victoria and Albert Museum is to honour Bernard Leach, the potter, with the first full-scale museum retrospective to be held in this country from March 3 until May 8. The exhibition includes some 200 of his finest pots, drawn from over 60 private and public collections, besides finished drawings, prints and working studies. The objects range from the very first pot he ever decorated, in 1913, up to the latest in 1973—when failing eyesight made it impossible for him to continue working. The exhibits range in size from pin boxes to giant chargers, and in materials from earthenware to porcelain.

Born in Hongkong in 1887, Leach spent the first 10 years of his life in the Far East. Having studied drawing at the Slade School of Art, and arching under Brangwyn, in 1909 he returned to Japan, where his realized, and he became apprenticed to a leading Japanese master. He studied early Chinese and Korean art, especially the pots of the Sung and Yi dynasties, with their classic forms and subdued glazes.

Mr Leach has the distinction of being the only craftsman in any field to be a Companion of Honour.

Some of the notices are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.



Richard Moore, Ian Hogg and Glyn Owen with Ronnie Letham

## Bryan Ferry Albert Hall

Star quality is easy to see but hard to define. That Bryan Ferry has it in abundance was obvious to a packed house on Monday at the first of three London dates on his first solo British tour and, astonishingly, he was far more exciting than when a member of Roxy Music.

The last Roxy albums suggested that the five strong personalities in the band were not totally in sympathy with each other or their music. Ferry's new touring outfit, although it includes two former Roxy members, Phil Manzanera and Paul Thompson, suggests exactly the opposite. There is a precision and an assurance that is a joy to hear, a variety of colours rare in live performance and a most infectious enthusiasm.

Time and time again exhilarating outbursts from Chris Spedding, the lead guitarist, sliced through the thick wall of sound created by the three-man band section, thrillingly led by

## When you want to get personal use The Times.

Lost touch with an old friend? Want to send birthday or anniversary greetings? Make up a row? Place the closing performance of Opus 110. Instead we were in Beethoven's masterly good sense that Mr Brendel seemed to be responding most readily to the closing performance of Opus 110. Instead we were in Beethoven's masterly good sense that Mr Brendel seemed to be responding most readily to the closing performance of Opus 110.

For further information ring 01-837 3311, Manchester 061-834 1234.

**NOW IN OLIVIER THEATRE TONIGHT 7.30**

**BLITHE SPIRIT**

More amazing and more moving than any other play of the 20th century. A masterpiece of modern drama. A play that has changed the way we think about love and life. A play that is a masterpiece of modern drama. A play that has changed the way we think about love and life. A play that is a masterpiece of modern drama. A play that has changed the way we think about love and life.

**EARLS COURT**  
The 1977 International Furniture Show  
Wednesday, 9th February 12.00-6.00  
The biggest collection of all types of furniture to be seen under one roof.  
Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily  
Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**CRUSTS DOG SHOW**  
Friday, February 11  
MONDAYS, GUNDOS & TENDERS  
Saturday, February 12  
UTILITY, WORKING & TOY DOGS  
Breed and Obstacle Championships  
Judging by the breed  
Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**DEERLA**  
A new book by John G. Young  
Book No. 1  
Book No. 2  
Book No. 3  
Book No. 4  
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Book No. 100



















Bernard Levin

# This eternal Government game of appeasing the powerful, and not a twinge of shame

The series of grubby expedients to which the Government have resorted in the hope of getting their Devolution Bill through Parliament (the latest and most characteristic being a "fake referendum, with the question (faked to produce the result required), leads me to offer a thought that has been taking shape in my mind for some time now. For the Devolution Bill and its associated constitutional only the latest fragment of mosaic in what is now a regular pattern.

I do not propose to present my own views on the principle of devolved assemblies for Scotland and Wales, or on the significance that these bodies will or should have: still less am I going to discuss the question of genuine independence for either country. But it is necessary for me to say this much, and very obvious it is: that many men and women in England as well as in Scotland and Wales can and do support some form of devolution from the highest motives, feeling that these proud and ancient Celtic lands should have more control over their own fate, conditions, government and resources, or that such sharing of power offers a noble vision of the kind of place the United Kingdom should be, or that a longed-for of the Westminster connexion will paradoxically strengthen the links that join the diverse parts of the country.

But the point I am after is that nothing of all this animates the Government at all: there is no feeling that an injustice should be put right, or that a different future, full of promise, beckons the country. From first to last, the only force behind the Government's proposals has been the need to placate sufficient Scottish and Welsh voters to prevent a serious loss of parliamentary seats to the Nationalist Parties. Nothing else is involved. And this attitude, which I may call Government by placating, seems now indeed, has long seemed—to run through virtually every significant

legislative and other proposal that comes from this Government.

This is seen at its most obvious, of course, in the proposals and actions relating to the trade unions; so obvious is it that there is no need to go into great detail. Such measures as the Employment Protection Act, for instance, clearly not animated—as they well could have been—by a feeling that working people had for too long been without the means of protecting their legitimate interests, and that the balance of industrial power had to be tilted away from its traditional centre of gravity. No, the whole body of legislation has been designed to placate those powerful trade union leaders, the modern equivalent of the old American city bosses, sufficiently to ensure a few more months or even weeks of office for the Government. The extinction of any right not to belong to a trade union, for instance, together with the refusal to allow a general right of conscientious objection (a measure now so indelibly, and so naturally, associated with the name of Mr Michael Foot), which would have seriously limited the union's rights of organization in any industry, was included at the behest of Boss Jones and his like, and are there for no other reason.

Indeed, the use of this principle has gone still further. I had missed, until David Wood drew our attention to it a couple of weeks ago, the admission by the Government spokesman in the Lords ("the TUC and the trade unions were determined to get a change in the law") that the proposal to revise the laws relating to the Government's proposals has been the long overdue—was put forward not because the loose form of these measures has led to repression and injustice, but at the behest of the union bosses; so it will be possible in future for thugs like the blessed Marjory of Shrewsbury to further their work of intimidation unhindered

We are entirely surrounded by examples of government by placating, and the list is almost unending

by any fear of a severe prison sentence when innocent workers get bashed on the head with iron bars. Such measures, as I say, are only the most obvious examples of Government by placating. But study, for another, the words of Mr Callaghan at the Labour NEC's proposal for nationalization of banks and insurance companies. Who can doubt that Mr Callaghan believes, and if he felt sure his words would not be repeated, would in private say, that the idea is economic lunacy and that no government ought to do such a thing against it? But he needs to placate the combined left-wing and fellow-travelling majority on the NEC, so he said of the proposal that it was an admirable one, that it must certainly be enacted, and that the only thing against it is the lack of legislative time.

But we are entirely surrounded by examples of what I am talking about. Many civil servants are in the fortunate position of having inflation-proofed pensions. Perhaps they should never have had such rights: perhaps they should now be deprived of them.

But if they are deprived of them (and they seem likely to be, fairly soon) the deprivation will have nothing to do with either justice or economics: it will be instituted only in order to placate those (in all parties and in the press) who have been producing the clamour against the bureaucracy, and the fact (among several other relevant facts) that the Government will be breaking its contract with people who entered government service with a contractual right to this benefit will not be allowed to stand in the way of placating those who insist that the contract be broken.

What are many of the measures in the Immigration Acts but further instances of Government by placating—in this case placating the potential following of Mr Powell? (In particular what else was Mr Callaghan's contribution to this development in the matter of the Kenyan Asians?)

What else were the attempts to fiddle the law on behalf of the Clay Cross Clan but the placating of all those in and around the Labour Party who think that the law may be bent, and ought to be broken, whenever party considerations demand it? It comes to that, what else was the decision, taken on such considerations, to prevent Mr John Gournier or anyone else taking legal action to stop the postal boycott of South Africa, but a reflection of the Government's feeling that the postal workers in general, and so staunch an ally of the Government as Mr Tom Jackson in particular, had to be placated?

What of the thousands of millions thrown down such bottomless drains as British Leyland and Concorde? Are there not powerful groups and individuals to be placated, and is not the public purse as bottomless as the drains themselves? What of the heroic defence of Britain by Mr Crosland against the hordes of Icelandic warriors and their dreaded cod-guns? Were there not people

who felt that it was high time Britain stood up to *somedbody*? And would not a little more time be gained—time in which some further expedient could be hastily assembled—by placating them? What was the Bullock Committee—its majority and its terms of reference both arranged to ensure that the result, whatever the views of the employer members and indeed of Lord Bullock, would be what had been wanted in advance—but more of the same? And the abolition of private practice within the NHS, which even Lady Castle knows will have no discernible effect on the efficiency or standards of the Health Service? And the Bill giving security of tenure in furnished living accommodation, which has virtually extinguished the provision of such housing altogether?

You can go on adding examples to the list almost indefinitely; certainly the Government will. (Take the recent package of economic measures. Were they not, are they not, meant to save the country from ruin? If so, why were they only undertaken to meet the conditions imposed by the IMF in return for the loan? Will this Government not even take steps as essential as those except placatingly? It seems not.)

Perhaps a government which has, like this one, lost all sense of purpose, all idea of an horizon, all desire except that of staying in office, must inevitably sink into the condition I have described. But the inevitability does not make the behaviour any better, nor the experience of being governed by people thus motivated any less depressing. I am almost inclined to say that an actively malevolent motive on the part of our rulers would be better than this deadeningly passive one to which they are bound. Apart from anything else, do they never get even slightly ashamed of themselves?

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## Detente: Mr Carter tries to temper his evangelism with common sense

Linkage is dead—long live reciprocity. This is the new catchphrase for the changed handling in Washington of relationships with the Soviet Union. Anyone doubting that there is any sting in the change should consult with the Tass correspondent whose marching order President Carter authorized at the weekend in openly admitted retaliation for last Friday's expulsion from Moscow of an Associated Press man.

That was followed by Mr Carter's express concern for Mr Alexander Ginzburg, and his willingness to receive in the oval office such exiled dissidents as Vladimir Bukovsky and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

If the new reciprocity which it will mean that superpower business proceeds as usual, regardless of such sharply exchanged slaps. The intent at the White House is to try to keep issues separate, and unlinked—much the way, in fact, that the Soviet Union has been practicing detente, ignoring the theoretical "structures" which Dr Kissinger, the previous Secretary of State, pretended he was imposing.

### Confusion for America's friends

The policy, which shows signs of being improvised in the new administration's initial on-the-job training, seems certain to confuse some of America's friends, irrespective of what it does to the Russians.

Incidents during the administration's first two weeks in office have produced at least two kinds of concern. There have been those Americans, mainly liberals, who have professed to speak for west European governments in suggesting that their reaction is alarm and dismay lest Mr Carter is off on a morality crusade. And, contrarily, there have been those from armchair crusaders protesting that he in fact climbed down off his horse at the first snort from the Soviet dragon.

The trust is less stark, and a little more complicated. For those paying attention, Mr Carter has said enough in his long campaign for office to make it clear that he is serious in his concern for human rights, and in his belief that the American government and people should say and do more about it than was the case under Dr Kissinger.

Mr Carter is an evangelical Christian—he will bear witness. But where he is different, at least from the stereotype of the American moralizer, is in saying that he can at once speak out and do it "without upsetting our efforts towards friendly relationships".

It is another way of saying that there is no need to silence principles in order to get Soviet agreement on nuclear weapons limitation. There is no linkage, because such mighty issues are decided by each side regardless of moral stands.

Thus in stating that the official encouragement given Dr Andrei Sakharov, the outstanding Russian dissident, was not meant to be an "attack" on the Soviet Union Mr Carter is being consistent. The President most certainly did not rebuke those officials in the State Department who issued the Sakharov statement without making sure they had their minister's approval—which is now accepted to have been a bureaucratic mix-up of the kind that happens while people are still looking for keys to their desks.

Mr Carter merely stated the obvious with the sort of candour that still takes a lot of getting used to, that such statements about the Soviet Union will have to come from him, or from Mr Vance, the Secretary of State.

Kremlin reactions to the change may have to wait upon the first visit Mr Vance makes to Moscow in March. There seems to be little question the aging Soviet leaders are inter-

ested in a new Sakharov, will they at the take the new reciprocity sign they do not seem to worry about the about human rights?

After all, the American very much in their's torments of propagandists in renewed wa Moscow anathematized in Harlem and Missia question, of course, is the Soviet leadership informally, to turn a If not will official outspokenness benefit the lives of those in countries who dare to Helsinki freedoms. Debate on this issue began in Washington.

But it is clear that shortly he engaged i as the administration to make a major issue nuclear disarmament in the understanding of the conference in June 5 Helsinki signatories sceptics here wonder the Soviet Union will seeking to have the conference in September.

Proponents of the a of so-called "quid pro quo" always cite the issue emigration from the Union as the classic i overmeddling. Num on the rise until pe on the weakening of age" yet enacted—th Jackson-Vanik amen the 1974 Trade Ref These made it Ame (it still is law) to re certification (compliance with e totals of Soviet emig just Jews) in return favours—export cre tackled on and made c The Soviet Union talked the deal was eventually, emigration curtailed.

Dr Kissinger's claim if only it had been secret persuasion have been well. Yet Angola, the 1973 Mi war, to name but the example, was a th of "linkage" when not suit the Soviet U.

The point is made men in power here can be a middle way the extremes of secre can often mean a done) and the excess great legislation favor Soviet Union.

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### Action as well as words

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## West Germany's burdens are greater than Britain's, says the outgoing ambassador

After exactly seven outstandingly successful years as West Germany's ambassador in London, Herr Carl-Guenther von Hase is leaving Britain for Brussels next month—convinced that on balance, his own country has heavier burdens to shoulder and more intractable problems to solve than Britain.

Given the Federal Republic's high level of prosperity, this may seem paradoxical. But people in Britain tend to see only the economic aspects of the comparison, he pointed out in a farewell interview. They forget that they live within natural borders, surrounded only by allies and friends, at peace with their historic past.

West Germans, by contrast, live with the great national tragedy of the division of Germany, and everything that goes with it, including the permanent pressure of living at or near the communist border. In addition, they have to shoulder the burden of Germany's past, one of the factors which makes it hard for the Federal Republic to find its final role in Europe.

The British burden was from its economic rather than its political past, he said. Britain had pioneered the industrial revolution (to the benefit of others), just as it was now the first to see the limits of economic development.

It had suffered from the protected era of Commonwealth trade, and now found itself in the draughty air of a free-trade competition. It had been denied the mixed blessings of an end-of-war "zero-hour", with the revamping of institutions and attitudes which followed in West Germany.

His own country had a large balance of payments surplus; but industry lived on borrowed money to a much greater extent than here. Britain had its great invisible earnings, and assets as a trading nation which could easily be revived. As for North Sea oil, he had no doubts about its value, providing it did not encourage the

neglect of some necessary structural improvements in industry.

The common thread through Herr von Hase's seven years in London has been Britain's entry into the European Community. He arrived just after the Hague summit conference of the Six had given the green light for the entry negotiations which the Heath-Pompidou meeting made even greener. Then there was the historic Commons vote in October, 1972, and full membership from January 1, 1973: a very difficult first year with the Yom Kippur war and the painful divisive energy crisis.

He believes the EEC lost momentum during the Labour Government's "renegotiations" of 1974-75. But in exchange there was the referendum on membership here, which he believes, has been a blessing. Now he is leaving to become Bonn's Permanent Representative to the European Communities at a time when Britain has the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; and when his friend Sir Donald Maitland, like him a former Foreign Office and prime ministerial spokesman, is in the chair of the powerful Committee of Permanent Representatives in Brussels.

One of the very positive aspects of his exacting new job is that he will remain closely linked to the United Kingdom. He looks forward to using all his knowledge of Britain and dedication to his former job in the interests of Europe as a whole. He leaves London with the belief that good bilateral relations between EEC member states are far from having lost their importance. He sees them indeed as a pre-condition for good relations within the EEC and necessary to achieve the highest possible denominator of collective interest.

Relations between London and Bonn have been on a steady upward curve, he believes. He has naturally followed the controversy in the letters column of *The Times*,

and elsewhere) about the continued showing of anti-German war films and so on in Britain. He thinks Germans should overreact to these, and would like to see patience, charm, wit and persuasion—very much his own gifts, he said—deployed to demonstrate again and again that the Federal Republic has broken with the undemocratic past.

He has nothing against the war being constantly recalled, but finds that the fresh anti-German inventions of children's comics more worrying. Since their first perpetuating a negative picture on a non-historical basis.

There are other psychological problems. Among them, he concedes, is the danger that West Germany, with its low inflation rate and huge payments surplus, may seem the only EEC country to step. Creditors are never liked, particularly German ones. The economic giant has put on political weight, but has not yet found its equilibrium.

This is a problem Herr von Hase will have to face in Brussels, and it is a mark of the more political view of the EEC now being taken in Bonn that a man of his gifts and background should at last be sent there, after a succession of economics experts. His fairness, tolerance, tact and ability to master his dossiers will all be stretched in his new job.

That he is a man of great self-discipline comes perhaps from his military background. Born in Silesia (now Poland), the son of an army officer, he was brought up in Berlin and joined the army in 1936. As a major he was captured by Soviet troops in February 1945, and stayed as a prisoner in the Soviet Union until 1950: first near Moscow, then east of Leningrad.

Conditions were harsh. Hundreds of thousands of Germans died. But Herr von Hase reckons Soviet treatment was the mildest correct, given the way the Germans had treated Soviet prisoners.

Five years after joining the



Herr Carl-Guenther von Hase, photographed by Brian Harris.

Bonn Foreign Ministry he became head of the press section, then chief government spokesman. He served in this difficult post for one and a half years under Adenauer, through the Erhard era, and for a year under Kiesinger, before becoming state secretary at the Defence Ministry.

He is now 59, and regards his seven years in London as the most fascinating of his professional life. It is symbolic of the cultural enrichment which his family has derived from

their years here that three of his five daughters will be staying behind to work or study in England. To have so firm a friend of Britain in Brussels will be no small asset.

Roger Berthoud

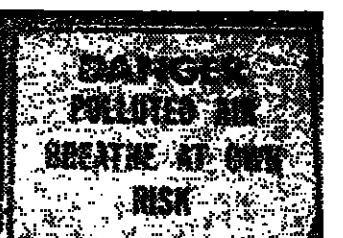
## The Times Diary

### Wi Lee Jo and the Dragon Lady

P. H. Simplicissverk, my British affairs analyst, writes: Fierce rivalry, accompanied by extravagant public denunciations, has blown up among the former followers of Chairman Wil Sun, the late spiritual leader. Wi Lee Jo, former head of Wil Sun's information commissariat, is leading a campaign of vilification against "Dragon Lady" Madame Ma Tse Ya.

Among Jo's charges is one that Madame Ma nagged Wil Sun to an early grave last year—when, after a power struggle, he was succeeded by Sun Nee Jim. He also alleges that she indulged in bourgeois ripperies such as writing letters on lavender-scented rice-paper (so that they could be eaten after they had been read). On one such piece of paper, Jo says, Madame Ma wrote out the names of her henchmen whom she wanted made Heroes of the People's Struggle.

Madame Ma was said to be "indisposed" yesterday, but she issued a statement in which she hurled rival accusations back at Jo. He had, she said, taken part in a whisky-thrashing orgy and other excesses, including a telephone-smashing inci-



This sign's lack is of any alternative suggestion. It was photographed in a London glass factory by Nina Kaye of Wands-worth.

dent, while working alongside Wil Sun at Dow Ning Street. Executives for Wil Sun produced a long wall poster denouncing Jo for his treachery to the memory of the revered leader, who kept him on as placeman even during the long years of his disgrace between 1970 and 1974. It is known that Jo and Madame Ma were constantly battling for the ear of the leader.

There is speculation that Jo's move against Madame Ma might have the support of Sun Nee Jim, anxious to secure his position against the ambitions of the other contenders.

thought highly significant that the *Daily Mirror*, the official party newspaper, devoted five whole pages to Jo's denunciations.

Another mystery is the support given to Madame Ma by Lon Fud, who fell out with Wil Sun many years ago and who does not owe his title of Hero of the People's Struggle to Madame Ma. His letter in her defence appeared in *The Times*, a semi-official newspaper.

The line-up on either side is of a complexity which baffles even the most experienced and thoughtful eastern observers of occultal politics. It is believed that the further ramifications which the tightly-controlled press is not allowed to publish,

### Professional

Walking through Mayfair after lunch, I mused that what the Wilson regime lacked was professionalism. The Haines revelations and recriminations reinforced the impression already given by the Crossman Diaries—of an administration constantly bickering, plotting among themselves in different corners of the kitchen, occasionally throwing whisky, telephones or each other about the room. There was a lack of discipline and unifying purpose.

I had, I must explain, just been lunching with Mary Margaret, the embodiment of

numerous Broadway musicals—notably *South Pacific*—has just written her autobiography.

It is called *My Heart Belongs to Valentine*, but it is not as goosy as those two facts would indicate. It is a straightforward show-business autobiography (complete with the childhood memory of the dry-goods store with the wire that automatically whizzed change and bills across the ceiling) and it will charm those who are charmed by show-business autobiographies.

Miss Martin herself would charm even those who are not. At 63, she admits to still having no clear idea of why she has been so successful. "I've never been a fan of mine," she told me. "I don't sing that well and I don't dance that well."

She has the quality most admired on Broadway—attitude. She belts out the songs with verve and volume, giving audiences little chance to escape involvement.

She also has the perseverance needed to get on to the Broadway stage to start with. At the start of her career, she went to audition after audition, facing frequent rejections, until by the law of averages someone had to hire her. And in the middle of her career she took a year off for singing lessons from Dino Borzildi.

There are not many of her sort around nowadays. This, she believes, is because of the rival

"Nowadays people want everything," she said. "They want to be everything." And the belt-out school of singing is in any case not too well suited to television.

Miss Martin arrived in London on Sunday, the day the Queen celebrated 25 years on the throne. It reminded her that the late George VI had seen *South Pacific* the week before he died in 1952, and she had been presented to him backstage. He told her that he enjoyed playing her records, when he could prise them away from Princess Margaret.

She admires our royal family. "They do it so well because they work at it," she said. She plans to return to the stage, after an absence of eight years, if a suitable show is found for her. If she does, she is sure to work at it and do it well.

### Old stager

Talking of old professionals, they do not come much older than Richard Golden, who received a special award at the Variety Club's annual show business prizegiving at the Savoy yesterday for the long career as Mole in *Toad of Toad Hall*. Golden, only a few days from his eighty-second birthday, was until last month giving three performances a day, two in *Toad* and one as an elderly civil servant in Tom Stoppard's *Dirty Linen*.

A small, bent, but sprightly old man, Golden is taking a few weeks off for what he



described as "a small operation for an old gentleman's complaint", but he has every intention of reappearing next pantomime season yet again in Kenneth Grahame's classic children's story. He first played the role in 1930; this year's production was his twenty-second appearance in the part.

"The last thing I ever won

was a medal for running when I was a youth. Goodbye to that. Today I feel less like a mole and really rather more like an elderly chimpanzee. I thought I was passé, but apparently not."

He told Lord Delfont, who presented him with his silver heart-shaped trophy, his friend, the actor P. H. Berber, had once greeted him in the street with: "Hello! I thought we were both dead."

In last Friday's *Diary* I wrote: "What we need is a good scandal." Would that all my wishes were answered so promptly.

### Fun food

My suggestion that the new National Theatre restaurant should try matching their menu to the plays in the repertoire has excited some interest. For a start Reginald Spink, a former committee member of the translators' association of the Society of Authors, takes me to task for saying that I would have liked some of the blood sausage frequently referred to in a current production, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*. Is he saying disparagingly, only black pudding mistranslated?

Cyril Ray disagrees with my suggestion of pasta for *The Merchant of Venice*. Venetians, he says, are more likely to prefer rice or polenta, and in any case nothing less than a pound of flesh would really

suffice, preferably a steak. The crunch won come, Peter Allen when Titus Andronicus played. In that play pares a pile of two n baked, and his own gruesome idea that lenze any restaura toire.

### Fashion new

My thanks to those who have written to what to do about velvet jacket, which most popular suggest I should start a n in evening wear by the sleeves above (if I wore a short-sh with it I could tattoo arm).

Another appealing comes from Cambr i last wore the co garment. A reader that "a lozenge or gaudy silk would charming". Another wear a red velvet b sleeve.

Micks and Spet asked to have t returned for test, round to their Bah head offices yester. Morcherer bag (th hand) and even no teams of top scie, poring over the fab for developments.





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## CHANCE FOR PEACE

Waldheim will know an to expect a very come when he arrives tomorrow at the end of the East tour on which he led to the leaders of the states and of the Liberation Organiza- hopes he might have achieving a diplomatic h were firmly by Monday's state- of the Israeli foreign Mr. Allon. Israel still solutions 242 and 338 urity Council (provid- recognition of all he area with "secure ized boundaries" and negotiations between ) but does not accept in General Assembly affirming the right stinians to self-deter and to an independent sees the latter as ng the former and y role for the United a the peacemaking

heim will be received the honour due his but clearly Israel has a of helping him with aid on him by the sembly of finding a e PLO to participate negotiations. For sub- discussions on the next rds peace, Israel wait the visit of Mr. in the month, for rs the United States mediator in the t conflict".

Mr Vance himself said at a press conference on January 31 that he had "some thoughts" on the Palestinian question which he preferred to keep to himself. He did say, however, that so long as the PLO refused to recognize Israel's right to exist and to accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as a framework for negotiations it was "difficult to see how progress can be made". He emphasized that we continue to believe that the recognition of the legitimate interests of the Palestinian people will be critical to any peaceful settle-

A careful reading of these statements shows that Mr Vance would not rule out a role for the PLO in negotiations if the PLO could be brought to recognize Israel's right to exist and to accept negotiations based on Resolutions 242 and 338. This is also the direction in which the main Arab states are working, but it is not yet certain that they can get the PLO to deliver. One reason for this is that it is equally uncertain whether, even if the PLO were to oblige, the Israelis could be brought to soften their opposition either to the presence of a separate PLO delegation at the Geneva Conference or to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a component of an overall peace settlement. In the hope of making this easier for them, President Sadat has suggested that such a state should be linked

in some way to Jordan, and both he and President Assad have pushed the PLO towards a rapprochement with Jordan, probably with the idea that this might make possible a joint delegation at Geneva.

This pressure is unwelcome to most Palestinians, who still harbour a strong grudge against King Hussein over the events of 1970-71. Mr Arafat appeared to be deliberately avoiding a meeting with the King on Sunday. But his freedom of manoeuvre is much more limited than it used to be, and on the same day it was announced that a PLO delegation was leaving for Amman "for talks on the implementation of the Rabat summit conference resolutions". These resolutions provided for an independent PLO "authority" (or state) in any Palestinian territory relinquished by Israel, but also for coordination of both military and diplomatic efforts between the PLO and Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

A clear resolution of the issue is unlikely before there has been a full meeting of the Palestine National Council on the one hand, and before the general election has been held in Israel on the other. Moreover Mr Arafat may use the latter as an excuse for a further postponement of the former. Yet both Dr Waldheim and Mr Vance are surely right in believing that this year offers a chance which will not last indefinitely, nor soon recur.

## USING THE ROLE OF COAL

two years since the Plan for Coal" was y the National Coal ndustry's unions, and tent of Energy. Its ure was to attain an ut of at least 135 ; by 1985 and, per- million tons with effort. To this end are to be deployed ation, now probably r of £3,150m, com- the original estimate according to yester- artmental progress

tification for such capital investment the long-term net ch as higher rates of d and a stated ed for substantial up- id fuel to help in energy requirements for the mid-eighties to the year 2000. no one reading with est report can doubt it has been a somewhat Rates of production disappointing, argu- ways to stimulate persists, the miners their union muscle.

and, in spite of the higher coal burn by the electricity authorities, increases in coal prices have been far higher than the general level of inflation and eroded what was thought to be a new-found competitiveness with oil.

Recommendations in 1974 for an effective incentive scheme have not yet been implemented, but at least the National Union of Mineworkers has taken an initiative by setting up a study group on this critical matter. Nevertheless, the industry is pointed in the right direction, if still burdened down by its debt interest despite huge grants and financial reorganization.

Britain has technically re- coverable reserves of coal amounting to some 45,000 million tons, enough for over 300 years at current rates of out- put. It is reasonable that this should be exploited in a more planned way after the postwar experience of decline, culminating in bitter and unprecedented industrial disputes, and the salutary reminders from OPEC of the economic vulnerability of industrialized nations with heavy dependence on imported oil.

## CE FOR THE BANABANS

d dignified struggle ean Islanders, or o try to correct ion they claim have rated on them over f many years, has n a wide measure of some parliamentary Their shabby treat- hands of successive ial authorities has itized by the High who spent the best e years trying the ich the islanders ainst the British

He was unable, in ut them anything small part of the 1 which they sought, clear that he thought case was a strong original homeland, d has been laid nding operations for nd they have lived r more than thirty mbi, near Fiji.

re riches from those have been given to form of royalties but much more has tain, Australia and l, although much of accruing to Britain been ploughed back ministration of the lbert and Ellice which Ocean Island onally, a part. The ve a strong case for

saying that they have systematically been paid less than their fair share from the benefits of the phosphate on their island, and they look jealously on the citizens of Nauru, who, similarly dispersed from their phosphate-rich home, have attained substantial wealth.

The financial claims of the Banabans are accompanied by a claim for political and constitutional independence from the Gilbert Islands. The British Government, while not shutting the door completely, has been less than enthusiastic. It has to consider, too, the rights of the Gilbert Islands, which are now self-governing and likely to obtain independence within two years, and those of Tuvalu, formerly the Ellice Islands, which broke away from the Gilberts in 1975. Both of these groups have only limited economic potential and they have in the past relied heavily on funds from phosphate royalties to keep them going. Those royalties will come to an end in about three years, when the phosphate on Ocean Island runs out.

Moreover, the British Government can point justifiably to the fact that while the Banabans have, in absolute terms, received a small proportion of total phosphate royalties, if looked at per capita, the islanders have not done all that badly, and have, on

their own admission, squandered or invested injudiciously much of their income. The British government must also have in mind the possibility of Ocean Island regaining economic potential through, for instance, fisheries under the forthcoming international 200 mile limits.

The Banabans cannot have it all ways. If they accept a settlement from the British Government, choose to go on living in Rambi (which is the only home which most of them have known) and achieve independence, or whatever association with Fiji is considered appropriate, they cannot at the same time retain their sovereign rights over Ocean Island. That does not mean that they ought not to be allowed to keep their rights as landowners, and to continue to have the right to enter and stay on the island. It would be unjust, however, to have effect, for the flag of Fiji to fly from the scarred face of Ocean Island. Within those limits, there would be no reason for the British Government to oppose the Banaban wish for separation from the Gilberts. It should in any case make a generous payment to the islanders — in whatever form would be most advantageous to them — as compensation for the substantial moral, if not legal, wrongs it has done them in the past.

## age in children

Cogswell and Stallworthy and Dr anuary 24) urge the accept responsibility compensation when follows immunization They argue that the vaccine have no responsibility unless established.

age of brain damage eviously healthy child ng and understandable elatives to seek the disaster, and to lay in someone's doorstep. Parliament, solicitors to support such claims tion believe they are best interest of the erned but unless in of all the facts this he case.

age to a child may during or after birth s are often unknown, s occur most parents ake a slow and painful adjustment to their

family tragedy, often with the support of a professional team skill with the management of handicapped children. Multidisciplinary care is provided for the physical and emotional needs of the child and family within the framework of the Health Service. Support of parents is often a prolonged and delicate process in which their emotional reactions are channelled into constructive ways of helping their child. Thoughts of litigation or compensation do not usefully contribute to this process. Professor Stallworthy has made the point that care is provided for a handicapped child.

All surgical and medical treatment or prevention carries some risk. Patients have a right to know what the risks are before undergoing treatment or agreeing to prophylactic measures for their children. Once the facts (as they are known) have been explained to them by the doctor concerned, the patient should accept both the risks and benefits of the treatment given. In the case of whooping cough vaccine the facts are unclear and medical opinion divided

between the risks and benefits. It is our personal view that the vaccine should be temporarily withdrawn until the facts are known. Successful claims for compensation will require proof and at present this is difficult or impossible to obtain in a child developing brain damage after an immunization procedure. An association of two events in time does not establish a causal relationship.

Finally, all families of handicapped children need efficient, sympathetic and at times costly help. For if the Ombudsman were to recommend that only very small group of handicapped children should receive cash compensation this might have an unfortunate effect on the morale of the majority. Yours faithfully,

J. J. COGSWELL, Consultant Paediatrician.  
A. S. RAIKES, Development Paediatrician, Poole General Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole, Dorset.  
February 7.

## Preserving the sixth forms

From the President of The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators  
From the Headmaster of Highbury Grove School

Sir, There will be considerable disquiet among those concerned for the healthy and purposeful development of secondary education, at Mrs Williams' apparent recent interest in tertiary reorganization. The de-capitation of comprehensive schools to effect administratively near solutions to the problems of sixth form provision will prematurely confirm in their views those who felt that comprehensive reorganization could only affect adversely the educational prospects of our most academically promising youngsters, and will dismay those who saw in it the possibilities of genuine advance. The implications for both the 11-16 and the 16-19 sectors are manifold, and some of them potentially disastrous. There will be, I suspect, an inevitable tendency for those teachers most devoted to their subjects (and their colleagues as well as those best qualified in them) to gravitate towards that sector where there will be the most obvious job satisfaction, "A" level teaching, with the consequent loss of their influence in the 11-16 range (a loss to their colleagues as well as to their pupils). There is the considerable possibility that appreciable numbers of pupils, for whom the transition from fifth to sixth form studies within the institution they already know is a natural and attractive progression, will be deterred by the prospect of an entirely new start in a different educational environment (and what will happen to those pupils who wish to resist examinations they failed in their fifth year?).

There is the further, more subtle, and much less readily definable, change in the general ethos of the school which would result from the removal of even a comparatively small sixth form, affecting the quality of educational offering for all. Sixth formers themselves would be denied the opportunities at present even the best developing qualities of leadership and service to others (many in my school, engaged in "A" level studies, devote some of their time to assisting first year remedial readers).

Undeniably, there are administrative problems created by the present and projected fall in school rolls. There are also solutions to these problems which need not have the morale shattering effect yet another form of reorganization would have upon the education service. It would be a tragedy if Mrs Williams, who has got so many of her emphases right, should jeopardize some of the gains she has made by concentrating on the advantages or otherwise of compelling industry to accept trade union representatives on the board. May I comment on the one major aspect that the report was supposed

to be concerned with—that of "participation"? During this century enormous sums have been spent on research on how men and women behave at work—much of it inconclusive. But one rule of certainty which seems to be established through studies in the United States and elsewhere is that workers tend to accept change and react favourably if they are allowed to participate themselves in contributing their ideas and experience to the change. The great classical American studies show this; they are backed up by the important work that has been done in this country, in India and elsewhere by the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. It is sad, of course, that the splendid work done by the Tavistock after the war in the coal mines was dropped in this country, and was taken up by places like Scandinavia and the United States.

The very best examples of effective participation can probably be seen in the United States where the emphasis has been on direct communication to workers on the shop floor. In this country progress towards effective shop floor participation has been seriously hindered by the introduction of the shop steward system during the last war, with the result that communication is seen as being funnelled through him. In Europe the naive political concept of participation has also been a block towards developing genuine shop floor participation.

It is interesting to note that many German industrialists who regarded supervisory boards as being harmless and even mildly useful have now come to realize that the unions have been blocking appointments to boards in heavy industry and the new 50 per cent workers on boards system poses a danger of national syndicalist planning by the unions. It is for this reason that we termed the Bullock Report and so much comment on participation as being illiterate. It is sad indeed that all the significant research on participation during this century seems to have totally passed by those who write such contributions about the subject. It is also sad in that industry's great social need—to involve men and women at lower levels of the organization, to use their intelligence and experience to the full, and to make their work as interesting as possible—is being side-stepped by the application of these naive, unsuitable and dangerous panaceas.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL IVENS, Director, Aims of Industry, PO Box 443, 5 Plough Place, Fetter Lane, EC4.  
February 4.

## The Bullock Report: gradual progress

From the President of The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

Sir, The terms of reference of the Bullock Committee were such that we can be grateful for a scholarly contribution to the debate about industrial democracy and unsurprisingly that an unpractical and potentially disruptive model has been suggested.

The Chairman of the British Institute of Management suggests, in his letter (February 4), that there should be flexibility in the development of participation in the decision making process even at board level; but this could mean that the board structure will become a bargainable item in a list of trade union demands and that a whole range of settlements could emerge across the industrial scene. This would be highly unsatisfactory administratively and confusing to say the least for the investing public.

No doubt it is important that any decision to implement proposals for employee participation at board level should be agreed between shareholders, employees and management rather than imposed on any one of them; but arising out of the Bullock Report, we do not despair of arriving at guidelines for such participation or even a *statutory* model which could be acceptable to a large number of the 738 enterprises which the Report enumerates.

It is important to everyone concerned with high standards of administration that companies should not take too many diverse routes to what is an agreed destination—the greater involvement of employees in the decision making process. We should proceed by experiment, no doubt, in the first instance, but try to keep to a pattern which will make it possible for practical legislation to emerge and which at the same time will not divert us from the need to keep more or less on course with our partners in Europe.

In the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, we shall be pursuing our minds to the solution of such solutions in the coming weeks.  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN F. PHILLIPS, President, The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, 16 Park Crescent, W1.  
February 7.

From Mr Michael Ivens  
Sir, Your interesting correspondence on the Bullock Report has tended to concentrate on the advantages or otherwise of compelling industry to accept trade union representatives on the board. May I comment on the one major aspect that the report was supposed

to be concerned with—that of "participation"? During this century enormous sums have been spent on research on how men and women behave at work—much of it inconclusive. But one rule of certainty which seems to be established through studies in the United States and elsewhere is that workers tend to accept change and react favourably if they are allowed to participate themselves in contributing their ideas and experience to the change. The great classical American studies show this; they are backed up by the important work that has been done in this country, in India and elsewhere by the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations. It is sad, of course, that the splendid work done by the Tavistock after the war in the coal mines was dropped in this country, and was taken up by places like Scandinavia and the United States.

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It is interesting to note that many German industrialists who regarded supervisory boards as being harmless and even mildly useful have now come to realize that the unions have been blocking appointments to boards in heavy industry and the new 50 per cent workers on boards system poses a danger of national syndicalist planning by the unions. It is for this reason that we termed the Bullock Report and so much comment on participation as being illiterate. It is sad indeed that all the significant research on participation during this century seems to have totally passed by those who write such contributions about the subject. It is also sad in that industry's great social need—to involve men and women at lower levels of the organization, to use their intelligence and experience to the full, and to make their work as interesting as possible—is being side-stepped by the application of these naive, unsuitable and dangerous panaceas.

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MICHAEL IVENS, Director, Aims of Industry, PO Box 443, 5 Plough Place, Fetter Lane, EC4.  
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From Mr Tom Sargent, and others  
Sir, Your report (February 3) about the Hull prison riots, when considered together with other accounts of the riots and of the treatment of prisoners involved in them, makes it very clear that Boards of Visitors provide a wholly inadequate instrument for protecting prisoners against oppressive treatment and for remedying the grievances which lead to riots.

This is not necessarily their fault, because they are expected to exercise discretion in the face of the wholly incompatible function of adjudicating on charges brought against prisoners and of ordering punishment.

In May, 1975, the report of a joint committee appointed by JUSTICE, the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, under the chairmanship of Lord Jellicoe, recommended that Boards of Visitors should cease to exercise disciplinary powers and should be concerned only with the welfare and fair treatment of prisoners, leaving offences other than minor ones to be dealt with by panels of professional adjudicators.

In November of last year, the Home Secretary announced in Parliament that he could not accept this recommendation of the Jellicoe Committee.

In the light of recent events, and of previous similar disturbances, we believe that this decision was unwise and on behalf of our respective Councils we now urge him to reconsider it.

In the meantime we would like to point out that, since the treatment of prisoners is the responsibility of the Home Office, the Parliamentary Commissioner has full jurisdiction in these matters and the right to interview any prisoner at the request of his MP.

In default of an independent inquiry, for which you rightly call, this jurisdiction should be actively exercised by the Home Office.  
Yours faithfully,  
TOM SARGENT, Secretary of JUSTICE, MARTIN WRIGHT, Director of Howard League for Penal Reform, NICHOLAS HINTON, Director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, 2 Clement's Inn, Strand, WC2.  
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## Letters to the Editor

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February 4.

## Sir Harold's Honours List

From Mr S. C. Leslie  
Sir, Of the merits of Sir Harold Wilson's resignation honours list I share the probable view of the majority of your readers. What concerns me is the way in which its origins, actual or alleged, have been publicized.

About a year after I left the department in which I spent the last dozen years of my civil service life, I was invited to lunch by a distinguished journalist. It appeared over dessert that he wanted me to talk about the inside going-on in my late department—that kind of discussions had taken place, who thought what, I refused, and would have expected anyone in my own or a similar position to do the same.

There is value in importing experts into departments, for a term which may sometimes be prolonged and may even become, in the technical sense, permanent. Upon entry, they often have to live down a good deal of mistrust of their personal reliability on the part of their colleagues. For obvious reasons this applies particularly to journalists as publicity officers.

Whatever the technical rights and wrongs, it seems obvious that the system can survive only if civil service conventions about the confidentiality of internal proceedings are respected by those who do long temporary service. There must be some such people about with potentially remunerative secrets in their heads. No minister could be advised to put his head into the mouth of some imported Fleet Street lion with a long tongue and no disposition to govern it.

Perhaps the matter will engage the attention of those responsible for the Civil Service, or perhaps of the Cabinet Secretariat, which has had recent experience of the problem. A public statement of guidance would be helpful to the future of the official information service.

Yours faithfully,  
S. C. LESLIE,  
5A View Road, NE.  
February 7.

From Mr David Bett  
Sir, The fuss about Sir Harold's Honours list is quite unbelievable to the ordinary citizen. What is all in aid of? It goes to show that again how out of touch is the whole Establishment including, regretfully, yourself. Sir—in going on and on and on about an affair that no one outside Westminster, Whitehall and Fleet Street cares twopenny about. It is rather as if the French Court at the time of Louis XIV expected the peasantry to take an interest in who took part in a Royal hunting party.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BETT,  
6 Holland Park, W11.  
February 7.

## Sale of Mentmore

From Mr Hugh Leggatt  
Sir, Mr Denis Mahon (February 7) draws attention to the fact that the proposed auction sale at Mentmore in May is taking place there because of an inland Revenue rule that probable valuations are only acceptable for three years after the date of death. It is to be hoped that this will be promptly rectified but even so the Treasury reply quoted by Mr Mahon strikes one as impractical and confused, so boding ill for sensible solutions.

The truth is that the crisis concerning Mentmore is the direct consequence of the workings of the fiscal juggernaut. Yet the Government has the effrontery to imply that it would graciously welcome the assistance of "private sources" in extricating it from its self-imposed quandary so that it need not shoulder its proper responsibilities. But the humbug of trying to rescue the situation by becoming increasingly implausible.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH LEGGATT,  
Leggatt Brothers,  
30 St James's Street, SW1.  
February 7.

From Mr Jeffery Daniels  
Sir, Mr Mark Girouard, in his letter (February 5), emphasizes the points of difference between Mentmore and Waddesdon, whereas, in his own book *The Victorian Country House* (1971), he describes Mentmore as "an early example of what was to become the norm in Rothschild and other plutocrat houses" and on page 136 he sums up the impression given by Waddesdon as "entirely Rothschild". Even on dating he exaggerates the difference, since although Mentmore was completed by 1855, Waddesdon was begun in 1874, and the contents were being collected mainly during the late sixties.

One further point: if Mr Girouard and his friends wish to quote me, I should be grateful if they would do so accurately (my phrase was "a heterogeneous accumulation of prestigious loot"), and also with the customary courtesy of an acknowledgement.

Yours faithfully,  
JEFFERY DANIELS,  
5 Edith Grove, Chelsea, SW10.  
February 6.

Jubilee trees  
From Lady Keswick  
Sir, May I make a more practical suggestion than some that have been put forward to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee could not every parish in the last 25 years mark this great occasion—this would do something to repair the deserts created by Elm Disease. The fact that so many fine trees are past their prime makes planting a necessity as well as a pleasure—the money collected, now being devoted to well intended, but often "unendurable" souvenirs, could be used for this purpose.

Yours sincerely,  
MARY KESWICK,  
Theydon Priory,  
Theydon Bois,  
Essex.  
February 7.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

A flexible legal framework for industrial democracy, p 19

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are likely

### an offers ship e concession nd deadlock Europe

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expects European governments  
to increase the price competi-  
tiveness of their own ship-  
builders—implying State sub-  
sidies. A number of schemes are  
under preparation in various  
EEC countries—including the  
United Kingdom—but the EEC  
Commission is tightening up its  
monitoring of such schemes.  
In his statement to the work-  
ing party Mr Shashiki de-  
scribed the Japanese package  
as "exceptional". The pro-  
posed toughening of price con-  
trols would cover the period  
from the beginning of this year  
to the end of 1978, and would  
apply to all sizes of ship.  
The aim is to reduce the  
order intake of Japanese yards  
whose prices in some instances  
have been up to 40 per cent  
below those offered by Euro-  
pean competitors.  
He noted that this move  
could lead to orders being  
diverted to countries outside  
the OECD area, and added:  
"Further efforts will be re-  
quired on the part of West  
European countries to lower  
their offered ship prices."  
He added that if, on the basis  
of an exchange of information  
on new orders, some countries  
were found to be facing an "ex-  
ceptionally difficult situation"  
Japan would encourage indus-  
try-to-industry talks and re-  
strain exports to countries  
affected.  
Japan—whose emissary to the  
Paris talks has been involved  
in a series of preliminary talks  
in Europe in the past few days  
feels that the situation will be  
"substantially improved"  
if the measures are adopted.  
The Japanese representative,  
however, dismissed a Euro-  
pean plan for a 50-50 sharing of  
new ship orders as impracticable  
and prejudicial to free trade.  
Officials here noted that  
the Japanese still expect to  
produce 6.5 million tons of  
steel in 1977, a 10 per cent  
increase on the 1976 level.  
The Japanese also expect  
half the expected world total  
at that time—which would lead  
to a serious imbalance in the  
world market. European  
governments want a firm com-  
mitment for production to be  
based on compensated tonnage,  
which reflects the work con-  
tent in a ship.

### Bill would raise NCB borrowing to £2,600m

By Roger Vielvoe  
Energy Correspondent  
Legislation to raise the  
National Coal Board's borrow-  
ing powers from £1,100m  
through two stages to £2,600m  
will be introduced in Parlia-  
ment today.  
Ability to borrow much  
larger sums of money is vital  
to an industry where the cost  
of its ambitious long-term de-  
velopment plans has soared  
from £1,400m to £3,150m in  
three years.

Initially the Coal Industry  
Bill will aim to increase bor-  
rowing powers to £1,800m but  
there are provisions to raise  
the figure to £2,200m and later  
to £2,600m, subject to parlia-  
mentary approval.  
The Official Confirmation of the  
development plans for coal up to  
1985 is contained in another  
report published yesterday by  
the coal industry's tripartite  
group, consisting of Govern-  
ment, the mining unions and  
the National Coal Board.

In spite of increasing costs  
the report contends that the  
plan to add another 42 million  
tons of new colliery capacity  
up to 1985 is still valid. And  
in the longer term, beyond 1985,  
the report suggests the in-  
dustry should be aiming at an  
annual output target of 170  
million tons.

The report makes a brief  
mention of the continuing  
talks between the Government  
and the NCB on the problem  
of interest charges during the  
development phase when new  
projects are not yielding addi-  
tional revenue.  
Last year interest on loans  
almost wiped out the NCB's  
operating surplus of £46m. In  
the current year borrowing  
will exceed £300m and interest  
charges are expected to rise

from £52m to £73m, without a  
corresponding increase in  
revenue.  
The NCB has been pressing  
for interest-free loans or loans  
on which interest was not pay-  
able until a project was yield-  
ing revenue.  
In a foreword to the report,  
Mr Benn, Secretary of State  
for Energy said recent results  
in the coal industry had been  
disappointing.  
"Coal for the Future—Pro-  
gress with Plan for Coal and  
Prospects to the Year 2000,"  
Free from the Department of  
Energy, Millbank, London.  
Leading article, page 15

### SE Council puts case for switch to Talisman

By Richard Allen  
A campaign to convince mem-  
ber firms of the benefits of  
switching over to a fully com-  
puterized settlement system  
under the proposed Talisman  
scheme is to be launched by  
the Stock Exchange Council.  
Having already laid out over  
£5m of the expected £13.2m  
development costs, the Council  
yesterday voted "decisively" to  
press ahead on Talisman with a  
view to starting up in 1979.

After spirited debate, particu-  
larly about the proposed split  
of charges between jobbers and  
brokers, the Council approved  
in full a 41-page report on the  
new system prepared by the  
Exchange's Settlement Services  
Department.  
Copies of this report, outlin-  
ing costs, possible savings, the  
implementation strategy and,  
more important, the likely tariff  
charges, will be sent to all mem-  
ber firms within the next two  
days. Mr Nicholas Goodison,  
the Stock Exchange chairman,  
has also written to all senior  
partners explaining how and  
why the Council arrived at its  
decision.

The crucial referendum of all  
members required to enable the  
Exchange to press ahead with  
its plans takes place in March  
and in the meantime a major  
propaganda exercise is under-  
way. As well as copies of the  
report, member firms will be  
sent to "do-it-yourself"  
Talisman kits, enabling them to  
work out the effects of the  
scheme on their own operations,  
while a series of explanatory  
seminars is being arranged.  
As widely expected, proposed  
charges are biased heavily in  
favour of small transactions, re-  
flecting the SE's anxiety over  
the decline of the private invest-  
or in recent years.  
Although Talisman is de-  
signed to cope with a high  
degree of volatility the indi-  
cated tariff structure is based  
on an average level of 15,000  
bargains a day. On this basis  
the charge under present day  
conditions would be 67p per  
bargain with an additional 26p  
per every £100 over that figure  
to a ceiling of £50,000, where  
the total charge would be  
£13.54.

Working on a complicated  
formula to determine the likely  
savings to each function of the  
new system, the Council has  
agreed that brokers and jobbers  
should fund Talisman's £7m a  
year costs on a 70:30 ratio.  
Brokers would pay a fixed  
charge of 48p per bargain with  
an extra 1.86p per £100 above  
the first £500, while the corre-  
sponding figures for jobbers  
would be 19p and 0.74p.  
To scrap Talisman now and  
simply continue with the  
present range of checking,  
accounting and reporting ser-  
vices known as Charm would  
result in termination costs of  
£3m—only £2m less than the  
further developing Talisman.  
Meanwhile in answer to  
recent critics of the Stock Ex-  
change's expenditure levels Mr  
Goodison says that the Property  
and Finance Committee is cur-  
rently working with the chief  
executive to secure reductions.  
He expects total savings of  
£500,000 in each of the next two  
years, whether or not Talisman  
goes ahead.

### CBI survey finds more optimism in industry but little hope for jobless

By Malcolm Brown  
Manufacturing industry is  
slowly recovering confidence  
after the bout of pessimism  
engendered last year by the  
sterling crisis and doubts about  
the Government's intentions  
towards industry. But there is  
some concern about whether  
the recovery will go on.

This is the picture that  
emerges from the latest quar-  
terly survey of the Confederation of British  
Industry, published yesterday.  
Among the encouraging  
signs is a clear indication that  
investment intentions are  
buoyant, but the survey under-  
lines that there will be no  
sharp rise in manufacturing  
employment in the near  
future.

Introducing the survey in  
London yesterday Mr J. Camp-  
bell Fraser, chairman of the  
CBI's economic situation com-  
mittee, described the recovery  
as "fragile" but investment  
was "on the up and up".  
Mr John Methven, director  
general of the CBI, said that  
the policy implications of the  
survey seemed to be identical  
with those spelt out earlier  
this year by the confederation.

### Banks back within growth 'corset'

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent  
Monthly banking figures  
show that the banking system  
as a whole is now comfortably  
back within the limits on de-  
posit growth—the "corset"—  
imposed on it by the govern-  
ment last November.  
The figures, which cover the six  
weeks to January 19, also point  
to a further contraction in the  
money supply.

The move back inside the  
"corset" results from a fall in  
the banks' interest-bearing el-  
igible liabilities during the  
month, which has cut the  
growth in these interest-bearing  
resources to 2 per cent  
from last summer's base date.  
The Government's requirement  
is that the banks' interest-bearing  
resources grow by no more  
than 3 per cent over a period  
that runs from late last sum-  
mer to early this spring.

When the scheme was intro-  
duced in November, the bank-  
ing system was well out of the  
"corset", with growth of 6.2  
per cent over the base level.  
By early December this had  
been pulled back to 3.7 per  
cent.  
But though the position  
looks far more comfortable for  
the banking system as a whole,  
the major clearing banks are  
still significantly beyond their  
limits. Their growth in  
interest-bearing resources since  
last summer has fallen only  
marginally from last month's  
6.1 per cent—though that was a  
considerable improvement on  
the near 10 per cent growth  
they had been showing in  
November.

The fall in deposits has  
come about largely through  
the diversion of money into  
the gilt-edged market.  
Since, moreover, this coin-

#### BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for  
eligible liabilities and reserve  
assets ratios of United Kingdom  
banks released by the Bank of  
England today:

At mid- month	Eligible liabilities £m	Rise over 3 months at annual rate %	Reserve assets ratio
1976			
Jan	30,048	0.2	15.5
Feb	33,206	0.2	15.4
March	33,108	0.9	15.8
April	33,908	10.6	15.6
May	33,740	6.6	15.2
June	34,029	11.6	15.2
July	34,989	13.3	14.2
Aug	35,183	18.2	15.1
Sept	36,794	22.4	15.4
Oct	36,823	19.9	14.4
Nov	37,259	25.6	13.9
Dec	36,876	12.8	13.8
1977			
Jan	36,144	-5.1	14.4

### I raises bid for to \$36 a share

Staff  
twist to its  
battle, Rascal  
in raised its  
American data  
group Milgo  
day.  
as are \$36 a  
citation fee of  
States stock-  
secure Milgo  
this involves a  
cluding some  
ion costs, of  
£37.5m). The  
close on Feb-  
ruary 23.  
The offer of \$35  
mate with its  
plied Digital  
Rascal secured  
15 per cent of  
capital while  
whose offer  
ay, claimed it  
per cent of

This is the third time Rascal  
has raised its offer from the  
\$26 a share since it launched  
its bid just over two weeks  
ago. The fact that it is now  
bidding so much more is a  
measure of the importance  
Rascal places on gaining a  
foothold in the American data  
communications market.  
There was no immediate  
reaction from Applied Digital's  
side yesterday on whether it  
would match Rascal's new offer.  
There is considerable doubt  
on the other side of the Atlan-  
tic about how far Applied Digital  
can go on raising its cash  
and paper offer without  
depressing its own share price,  
since at current levels Applied  
Digital's offer is getting de-  
creasingly close to a reverse  
takeover. Rascal eased up to  
273p in the stock market

### UK standby credit comes into force

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Feb 8  
The \$3,000m standby credit  
granted to the Bank of England  
by the Bank for International  
Settlements came into opera-  
tion today.  
A BIS communiqué released  
in Basle, confirmed that 11  
western central banks are now  
backing the facility, which was  
finally agreed at yesterday's  
meeting of central bank  
governors at the BIS.  
The Austrian, Danish and  
Norwegian central banks de-  
cided yesterday to participate  
in the standby thus joining the  
central banks of Belgium,  
Canada, West Germany, Japan,  
the Netherlands, Sweden,  
Switzerland and the United  
States in setting up the "safety  
net" for the pound.  
It was announced last month  
that the standby will be avail-  
able for a two-year period to  
enable the Bank of England to  
counter the effects of the with-  
drawal of official foreign ster-  
ling holdings from London.  
Without going into details  
European central bank sources  
confirmed today that the level  
of British reserves had become  
an additional criterion govern-  
ing the access of the Bank of  
England to draw on standby.  
The bank will not be able to  
offset net declines in the official  
sterling balances from the  
standby, if the reserves have  
risen above a certain level, they  
said.

### Bank governor for Saudi and Kuwait talks

By David Blake  
Economics Correspondent  
Mr Gordon Richardson, Gov-  
ernor of the Bank of England  
is to visit Saudi Arabia and  
Kuwait later this month to  
explain details of the sterling  
balance support scheme and  
the proposed issue of foreign  
currency bonds.  
The visit, from February 18  
to February 25, will allow him  
to discuss the final form of the  
bonds with the two countries.  
They are the biggest  
holders of sterling as a reserve  
currency and might be  
expected to be the biggest

buyers of the government  
bonds, which are designed to  
"fund" or buy out official  
holders of sterling.  
Central bank governors in  
Basle on Monday are believed  
to have been given an outline  
of the Government's plans on  
the form the bonds will take.  
It is thought that about 75 per  
cent will be denominated in  
pounds, with the rest issued in  
other hard currencies such as  
yen and marks.  
On his visit, Mr Richardson  
will be accompanied by Mr  
Christopher McMahon, execu-  
tive director concerned with  
overseas matters, who was cle-

sely involved in the detailed  
negotiations which led to the  
setting up of the scheme to  
protect the United Kingdom  
from the effects of a sudden  
withdrawal of overseas sterling  
holdings in London.  
The final form of the pro-  
posed bonds is likely to be  
fixed shortly after the two  
men return to London. It is  
expected that the bonds will be  
issued by the Government in  
its own name. They will be  
negotiated, but it is not  
expected that the Government  
will seek to create a market.  
The Government is com-  
mitted to running down sterling's

role as a reserve currency,  
either by persuading official  
holders to buy the new bonds  
or through allowing them to  
move their money out of Lon-  
don and to replenish Britain's  
reserves by drawing on the  
Basle standby.  
Official holdings of sterling,  
which are the only ones  
covered by the scheme, stood  
at £2,756m at the end of Sep-  
tember, of which £1,541m was  
accounted for by oil-exporting  
countries. At their peak in late  
1974 they totalled £5,088m,  
of which £3,183m were held by  
oil exporters.

### ops Poclain move

the Stafford-  
on equipment  
"reluctantly"  
to acquire a  
the French  
y, Poclain,  
is in financial  
as recently  
the United  
I. Case, which  
£39m for a 40  
iding.  
company's man-  
unwilling to  
nancial inform-

ation available to JCB, and  
without Poclain's cooperation  
JCB felt unable to go ahead  
with plans to form a consor-  
tium to acquire some, or all of  
Poclain's equity.  
JCB says that the "door is  
by no means shut" and that it  
still wants to forge links with  
Poclain, creating a major Euro-  
pean construction equipment  
group. It is willing to re-open  
negotiations if and when Poclain  
decides to provide the  
necessary information.



Steel jobs drive: Sir Charles  
Villiers, British Steel Corpo-  
ration chairman, is to take per-  
sonal control of BSC (Industry),  
the subsidiary formed two years  
ago to soften the blow of indus-  
try closures and redundancies.  
Sir Charles's appointment as  
chairman of the BSC's smallest  
subsidiary coincides with a cam-  
paign to attract job-creating

industry to areas where steel  
making is declining. The com-  
pany is to make personal con-  
tact with 1,500 British com-  
panies considered to be poten-  
tial customers for the fully  
serviced industrial sites being  
offered, complete with skilled  
labour force. Sir Charles is  
seen above (left) with Mr Ron  
Smith, who retires as chairman  
of the subsidiary next month.

### Mr Carter moving swiftly on national energy plan

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Feb 8  
President Carter is deter-  
mined to move swiftly forward  
with a national energy policy.  
He said today that America was  
importing too much oil and  
"this has got to stop."  
To change his new economic  
stimulus programme because of  
the anticipated deterioration in  
economic outlook produced by  
the cold weather. At his first  
press conference since taking  
office he said his programme  
was "well balanced, well con-  
sidered... fair I think to the  
American people."  
Mr Carter currently faces  
mounting pressure in the Con-  
gress to expand his refuelling  
programme. He said today that,  
while he reserved his right to  
use his legislative veto power,  
he was working closely with the  
Congress.  
He was at his bluntest when  
discussing energy issues. He  
noted that America had been  
importing more than 50 per  
cent of its oil needs in the past

two months at over an average  
10 million barrels a day. This  
situation could not continue,  
because "we don't have ade-  
quate reserve supplies of oil  
stored to meet our needs if we  
were to encounter some very  
serious problems in the  
future."  
He promised that he would  
not fail to fulfil his campaign  
commitment of producing a  
"fair and comprehensive"  
national energy policy. This  
would require substantial sacri-  
fices on the part of the Ameri-  
can people. "I am going to try  
to make sure that oil and  
natural gas companies and  
others that produce do not  
derive unwarranted profits  
when we cut back consumption  
and encourage (domestic) pro-  
duction," he added.  
Mr Carter said he did not  
believe in nationalization of the  
oil and gas industry. He  
believed the best means of  
ensuring the energy develop-  
ment of publicly-owned lands  
was by means of selling leases  
through competitive bids.

#### markets moved

The Times index: 163.64-1.95  
The FT index: 392.3-5.2

#### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
10p to 40p	Schroders	10p to 300p
10p to 50p	Shell	8p to 512p
10p to 50p	Sofia Viscosa	10p to 75p
10p to 50p	Standard Chart	10p to 300p
10p to 50p	Sum Alliance	10p to 300p
10p to 50p	Taylor Woodrow	7p to 263p
10p to 50p	Utd Dom Int	1p to 10p
10p to 50p	Union Discount	10p to 300p
10p to 50p	UU Textiles	10p to 5p
10p to 50p	Progressive	4p to 70p
10p to 50p	Raine Eng	1p to 18p
10p to 50p	Vita-Tex	2p to 31p
10p to 50p	Warrington T	2p to 23p

et session,  
is stayed firm.  
cents to close  
effective devalu-  
2.8 per cent.  
ged at \$134.375

ges	Interim Statements:	20	Financial Editor	19
Table	Deca	20	Financial news	20, 21, 22
g Reports:	Mining Supplies	22	Market reports	20, 22
c	Peter Overhead	22	Letters	18
ustries	Vibroplant Holdings	20	Diary	19
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### What's in a name?

Advice Valuations Investment & Funding  
Commercial Mortgages Development O  
Organisation & Management of Investm  
Investment Portfolios Feasibility Studies  
Building Surveying Project Management  
Planning Consultancy Sale Acquisition &  
+ Letting of Offices Shops Factories Wai  
Warehouses & Residential Properties R  
Rehabilitation Relocation Advice Valuat

### Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks

Chartered Surveyors  
Bandcroft House, Palmolive Square, London EC4A 3AF 01-236 1520 Telex 860000  
44 Brook Street, London W1V 1TB 01-408 1161 Telex 32005  
Frankfurt Hamburg Bahrain Dubai Toronto New York Sydney



## Treasury puts case for boosting investment

By David Blake

Profitability of British industry, which has declined in recent years, ought to be increased, according to the Treasury.

In the latest edition of its monthly *Economic Progress Report*, the Treasury gives pride of place to a study which shows clearly that the Government accepts many, if not most, of the arguments advanced by industry in recent years which suggest that low rates of return are a major factor in explaining Britain's poor investment performance.

It stresses that restoring profitability is at the heart of the industrial strategy.

Using statistics for industrial and commercial companies in 1975, the study is also relatively sympathetic to the arguments suggesting that dividend payments are necessary for companies wanting to ensure that their share price is high enough for them to raise capital in the future.

Pension funds need a stream of income, it points out, and argues that a high proportion of individual shareholders who owned an estimated 42 per cent of all shares in 1975 were widows or pensioners or both.

Against this background, and the role of the 60.5 per cent of all profits retained in financing investment, the report underlines the decline in profitability in recent years. After deducting stock appreciation, the rate of return fell from 13 per cent in 1960 to 4 per cent in 1975, the study says quoting statistics first published in October.

The Government had acted to reverse this trend, partly by recognizing the need of a stable tax environment and partly by carrying out three reviews of public spending in 1975.

## Disputes make more idle at Leyland

By R. W. Shakespeare

Throughout Britain Leyland's Midlands production centres problems are growing and are likely to significantly worsen over the next day or two. More than 9,000 workers were idle yesterday because of disputes, and management spokesmen gave warnings that there could be a progressive lay-off of many thousands more, starting today.

As a direct result of the new dispute over a redundancy issue at the main body-making centre at Castle Bromwich—

where 32 strikers have the official backing of their union, the Transport and General Workers—another 1,300 men have stopped work and 1,800 more have been laid off.

There is no production of car bodies. Castle Bromwich supplies some of Leyland's largest assembly plants. The immediate effect has been to halt all Jaguar car production at Coventry where 1,300 assembly workers have been sent home indefinitely.

Two other big plants are immediately vulnerable. They

are the Mini assembly lines at Longbridge (Birmingham) where work restarted yesterday after being halted by a separate dispute and the Rover plant at Solihull.

Lay-offs at both centres could start today and by the weekend several thousand workers could be affected.

Meanwhile, the big Triumph assembly plant at Coventry is also at a standstill with 3,300 men laid off because of a separate internal dispute involving 350 plant shop workers who have now been out for more

than a week over the use of industrial engineers on work-study exercises.

Another 400 Triumph workers at the plant at Speke, Liverpool have also been laid off.

The Dolomite, the Spitfire, the Stag and the Triumph 2000 are all out of production at Coventry.

An additional problem is that there is a big stockpile of completed cars because of a two-week stoppage by delivery drivers employed by James Car Deliveries.

## Imported cars take 43.5 pc of British market in January

More than four out of every 10 new cars sold in Britain last month were foreign, according to figures issued yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Of 114,096 sales, 49,577 (43.5 per cent) were imported, nearly 11 per cent more than in January, 1976.

However, much of the increase is made up of cars built

in Europe by multinational companies like Ford, Chrysler and Vauxhall, as their declared policies of increasing integration of European plants take full effect.

On a more optimistic note for British manufacturers, was the fact that leading sales for the month were Leyland, with 32,572 sales (28.5 per cent of the market), followed by Ford,

which took nearly 26 per cent, including imported models.

Italy's Fiat, topped the list of importers, with sales more than double last January's figure. The company's position has been improved by far more aggressive marketing and the lira's devaluation has made Fiat prices much more competitive.

In contrast, companies like Volkswagen and BMW from West Germany appeared to be feeling the draught caused by the strong Deutschemark.

Vauxhall sales in January totalled 10,634, including 3,116 Belgian-built Cavaliers, to give it 9.3 per cent of the market. Chrysler sales were almost halved to 5,841 or 5 per cent of the market, compared to January last year.

## Dr Burns sees inflation risk in interest rates rise

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Feb. 8

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the federal reserve board, today hinted that with further rises in interest rates in prospect, inflation problems must be watched carefully.

In a letter to the chairman of the Banking Committee, of the House of Representatives, Congressman Henry Reuss, Dr Burns said that as private credit demands strengthen in line with the expected improvement in the economy, financing of the large government budget deficit would become more difficult.

Any improvement in the inflation outlook would have a moderating effect on interest rate pressures, he pointed out, but it should not be forgotten that "the reduction in the rate of inflation has been a significant factor in the interest rates

decline during the past two years."

The Fed is known to be concerned about inflation prospects. The inflation led Dr Burns last week to criticize President Carter's new inflationary programme, noting that the economy was on a recovery track even without measures which directly added to the federal budget deficit.

In his letter Dr Burns said there were three main reasons for the rise in domestic interest rates in recent weeks. The market had expected a decline in the rate for federal funds and the fact that this did not happen had tended to produce some upward adjustment in other short-term rates.

Some upward rate pressure has developed since the most recent set of general economic statistics had indicated improvement in the economy

## CB1 63rd Industrial Trends Survey: Jan 1977

### Total trade

Are you more or less experienced than you were last year? If not, are you more or less experienced than you were last year?

The company's performance over the last year has been good. The company's performance over the last year has been good.

The company's performance over the last year has been good. The company's performance over the last year has been good.

1. 1.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Imps' battle for market share

roup's earnings proved to change for the year with the non-interest contributing out of pre-interest profit with 43 per cent rise.

the cost of new has been exactly 1 margin affecting a halves and re-tion elsewhere has in the and cigar mar-

t has been the non- that has been the 21 per cent profit to a little help from a 22 per cent sales m. Food, especially overseas markets, ad best with trad-0 per cent hike

packaging, too, are recovery tack after used levels with trading profits 5.6m, while Imps' flat performance ery side down to rutes rather than market share.

the balance sheet sabbier from the in borrowings to re gearing a tenth per cent. Imps' ticularly from the changes in timin- agents though this extent offset by ividend payments.

f rising working outside of tobacco, nges coupled with n other cost pres- d in a slight t working capital. mains strong at ut including a six- tax element, and ough this year to ear £30m rise in lino to £80m.

re enough question the current year, ed at in the pre- ment to show any continued the shares. Fierce will continue in the rket and Imps is : to strengthen its increasingly import- segment of the

oo, reports from rates suggest that market is going famine in double hile industry talk Courage is strugg- market share. e in the dividend res gain up to 75p rket yesterday d is 10.4 per cent, s been heaped on ill work against e shares go ex- Monday. Mean- BATs showing : momentum fur- between the two d.

(1974-75)  
£530m  
£129.6m  
(£106.8m)  
here 9.3p (7.5p)  
7.8p (7.1p).

1  
S  
amentals, Dowty spice the future



Mr Robert Hunt, chairman of Dowty: substantial work expected from the Tornado programme.

with thoughts of a possible bid —Bawker Siddley is one favoured candidate when it finally gets aircraft nationalization compensation—and the shares may be very cheap.

Meanwhile, Dowty is making the best of current trading conditions, which are not too buoyant.

But prospects look more encouraging. Aviation equipment, which last year contributed around 50 per cent of pre-tax profits, will get substantial Tornado programme, which should get under way within a year and is scheduled to produce more than 800 aircraft. It will be the biggest programme since the Hunter in the 1950's.

The mining equipment division, Dowty's other major profit earner, continues to expand, although now without the benefit of the Chinese contract, which was, in any case, a mixed blessing given its fixed price nature. Here, too, the future looks promising, with considerable mining activity under way in South Africa, Australia and South America. Moreover, major growth is expected in the United States, where the group has an established presence.

The hydraulic seals and industrial hydraulics division recovered in the first half from the depressed conditions of a year ago, helping to lift the group trading profit from £6.45m to £8.7m, a rise of 35 per cent compared with a sales increase of 14 per cent at £67.2m.

In the traditionally stronger second half profits could be £13m so the shares, up 5p to 115p yesterday, could be on a prospective p/e ratio of 7.1.

Interim: (1976/77) (1975/76)  
Capitalization, £47.7m  
Turnover, £85.3m (£78.3m)  
Pre-tax profits, £5.5m (£5.4m)  
Dividend gross, 4.62p (4.15p)

Dividend gross, 3.05p (2.77p)

Decca  
Speculating on the future

Takeover speculation has provided more support for Decca's share price recently than its stolid trading performance. The perennial crop of bid and reorganization rumours, sparked by the question of management succession and linking Decca's name variously with that of Thorn, EMI and even Racal, seems groundless at the moment.

But such speculation does contain a persuasive grain of commercial logic, centred on the notion that Decca's capital

equipment and consumer interests might be split into businesses individually attractive to its competitors. And it gains force in view of the climate of opinion against tier voting structures and the possibility of a reconstruction, enfranchising Decca's "A" shares and thus reducing the board's ability to block unwelcome approaches.

The underlying commercial logic of the rumours can, however, be seen as one of Decca's strengths, for its spread of capital and consumer products has helped reduce the impact on profits of the recession.

Capital goods are making the running at the moment, accounting for 58 per cent of the £85.3m turnover in the first half of the group's 1976-77 financial year. Decca has an order book for its large marine radar equipment taking it well into next year, but once fitting out work on ships laid down in the early 1970s is completed there could be an order gap before any eventual revival in ship-building is translated into demand for radar equipment.

Profits from consumer goods are down in the first half with lower TV and record sales. The vagaries of the record and tape market defy explanation, although it looks unlikely that Decca will repeat the sharp improvement in sales and profits seen in the second half of 1976.

Neither will there be a repetition of 1976's Australian colour TV sales boom, although Decca has a strong steady market there and is looking for a slight recovery in domestic TV sales this year.

Without factory closure costs, but facing attributable exceptional charges of "some hundred thousands" after the sale of its 50 per cent owned United States radar sales company from New York to Florida, the group believes that full year profits may be lower than 1976's £13.6m, a forecast which sent the "A" and ordinary shares 5p lower yesterday to 250p and 260p respectively. A 5.9 per cent prospective yield on the "A" shares on a prospective p/e ratio of just under 9 looks vulnerable on all but, what must be long-term, takeover speculation.

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Dividend gross, 4.62p (4.15p)

Clearing banks

Back to the 'corset'

The convolutions of monetary re-cycling over recent weeks do not make the latest banking figures particularly easy to interpret, but the general message is much as expected. The authorities' success—some would say overkill—with gilt sales is depressing the money supply and gradually easing the banking system back within the "corset".

The strains all this caused during January when the banks were also having to meet substantial demand for funds to cover seasonal interest and tax payments has already been widely chronicled. All the latest figures do serve to confirm that ahead of the year-end special deposits release the banks, especially the clearers, were hard up against their minimum statutory reserve asset ratios.

With the tax season over, the assumption is that the clearers who have so far been lagging behind the rest of the sector, can now start in earnest on the task of following the rest of the sector back into the constraints of the "corset"—the average figure for February, March and April, being the one that matters.

The immediate cash crisis at Meriden motor cycle cooperative has been relieved by the £1.5m state-cum-private enterprise rescue package reported yesterday. But what are the long-term prospects for this remnant of the once all-conquering British motor cycle industry?

Whatever its shortcomings—and they are many—the Meriden experiment in worker control has a number of points in its favour which deserve patient and understanding treatment. The loyalty of the workforce has been tested during the cooperative's two-year life. With the single exception of an "imported" finance director, all 700 employees, including the board of directors, have been paid the same low wage.

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Back to the 'corset'

The convolutions of monetary re-cycling over recent weeks do not make the latest banking figures particularly easy to interpret, but the general message is much as expected. The authorities' success—some would say overkill—with gilt sales is depressing the money supply and gradually easing the banking system back within the "corset".

The strains all this caused during January when the banks were also having to meet substantial demand for funds to cover seasonal interest and tax payments has already been widely chronicled. All the latest figures do serve to confirm that ahead of the year-end special deposits release the banks, especially the clearers, were hard up against their minimum statutory reserve asset ratios.

With the tax season over, the assumption is that the clearers who have so far been lagging behind the rest of the sector, can now start in earnest on the task of following the rest of the sector back into the constraints of the "corset"—the average figure for February, March and April, being the one that matters.

## Will the Meriden deal finally triumph?

tunities over the past two years for Meriden men to move to better paid jobs despite the present unemployment problems.

The workers have also demonstrated their willingness to become all rounders, ignoring traditional demarcation lines to relieve production bottlenecks whenever they have arisen. They are proud of the resulting benefits, quoting productivity increases per man of nearly 60 per cent, compared with the performance under Norton Villiers Triumph, the former owners of the factory.

What of the future? Much will depend on the confines of the workforce is prepared to give the new production experts seconded to Meriden from Sir Arnold Weinstock's EC, which is putting up £1m to buy the cooperatives stock of 2,000 motor cycles and is helping to set up a marketing operation.

The first casualty must be the £56 wage for all. The

blood is already disappearing from the "all brothers together" enthusiasm of early days. Today the common wage stifles progress at every turn. The need now is to recruit professionals for every rung of a recognizable management ladder. To attract men of the right calibre the cooperative must not only pay the going rate, but also demonstrate the workers' willingness to take orders, however unpleasant.

This fundamental weakness was clearly identified as long ago as last summer when three managers from Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds were seconded to Meriden for three months. Working within the confines of the existing chain of command they converted losses of about £80,000 a month to a profit of £20,000 and £3,000. But a member of the team said that much more could have been achieved with professional managers, foremen and skilled engineers.

The obvious danger in introducing highly paid new blood

is its effect on the shop floor. The common wage was a condition imposed by Mr Wedgwood Benn when he arranged the government loan of nearly £5m which got the cooperative off the ground. Government approval will still have to be obtained for a new wage structure but Mr. Benn expects this to be withheld if GEC and the cooperative can agree a suitable new formula.

The introduction of an effective production organization will only give Meriden the tools for the job. It still has to ensure that they are profitably employed.

It is understood that at present less than half the available factory capacity is being used to produce the old Triumph Bonneville 750cc motor cycle and to assemble 125cc and 150cc models. The Moto-Guzzi concern and keep fit jogging machines for Styr-Daimler-Puch of Austria.

Dated as it is, the Bonneville still finds support, but its appeal is limited and a replace-

ment must soon be found. This could cost several million pounds, however.

The Bonneville can be greatly improved and updated to enable it to hold its present appeal. The snag is that it would necessarily be a short-term palliative. Much as Meriden workers may dislike the prospect they seem to face a future as producers of other people's motor cycles, with their remaining capacity earning its keep on "jobbing contracts" wherever they can be found.

There remains another alternative and it was spelt out yesterday by one of the cooperative's supporters. "Sir Arnold Weinstock is nobody's fool and he didn't come in from the goodness of his heart. He must believe we can make a go of it."

"If we can show him how to make money why shouldn't he help to finance the development of a new Triumph?"

Why, indeed!

Clifford Webb

## Seeking a flexible legal framework for industrial democracy

| Number of employees | Shareholders | Directors | Appointed by Employees | Co-opted |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|------------------------|----------|
| 2,000-9,999         | 4            | 5         | 3                      | 3        |
| 10,000-24,999       | 5            | 6         | 4                      | 4        |
| 25,000 or more      | 7            | 7         | 5                      | 5        |

Parliament for the European company.

The majority model is one of confrontation of shareholders' and employees' directors, with the co-opted directors almost in the position of arbitrators. The minority model aims at cooperation between investors, employees and those representing the general interest.

The effect of adopting the majority model would be that the board of directors would become a formal body, just as the general meeting, and the real business would be transacted below board level by senior management. The seven reserved subjects which would require the approval of the board (pp 77 and 78) are so clearly defined that they would not give the board real influence on the conduct of business strategy.

The minority model, on the other hand, would leave the conduct of business in the hands of the managing board and the shareholders' supervisory board would concentrate on business strategy, in cooperation with the managing board, in the best interest of the company. However, it is not intended here to discuss the pros and cons of these two models in detail.

The question is whether the majority and minority share sufficient common ground to enable the legislator to proceed with legislation. That question has to be answered in the affirmative.

The future Bill should simply state that the board of directors or, if the company has a supervisory board, the latter shall consist of an equal number of directors elected by the shareholders and appointed by the employees and a third group of directors co-opted by the former two groups.

But the Bill should refrain from attempting to quantify these three elements. Here considerations of flexibility should prevail. Some companies may prefer the majority model, others the minority model in a modified form, and others again may devise their own scheme within the statutory framework.

That the minority report likewise adopts the principle of parity did not escape the attention of the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Edmund Dell, who said in the Commons debate: "The proposed Bill for a form of parity is to be found in the minority report."

2. The dogmatic approach of the majority report finds expression in its adoption of the two-tier system, leading to the exclusion of the two-tier system for which the indus-

trialists of the minority opted. The main argument of the majority is that the adoption of the two-tier system would lead to "two separate structures for companies" (p 72).

This argument is palpably unsound. The introduction of employee participation on the board of companies having more than 2,000 employees will lead in any event to the adoption of two separate forms of organization for companies, whatever board structure is adopted.

It is quite common in Europe and also in harmony with the reality of the situation to provide a special regulation for "large companies".

Clive Schmitthoff

That has been done in the Netherlands and in Germany with respect to large private companies (GmbHs).

There is no reason why the next Companies Bill should not admit both types of board structure, the unitary and the two-tier board, and leave the choice between them to the individual company. Here again the principle of flexibility and freedom of choice should prevail.

In both cases the formula 2x+y, in the sense just discussed, would, of course, apply. If the company opts for a unitary board, the formula would apply to that board, and if it adopts the two-tier structure, it would apply to the supervisory board. This optional system was introduced in France in 1966.

It is quite true, as the majority report observes (p 74), that most French companies have decided to retain the unitary system, but then France does not have employee representation on the board with voting rights, as is contemplated in the United Kingdom, and well-informed opinion in France expects a preference for the two-tier system if, contrary to the wishes of the Patronat, such system is ever introduced in France.

The introduction of an optional two-tier board system will require considerable alteration of the present company law in particular, the appointment and removal of the members of the managing board will have to be transferred from the general meeting to the supervisory board. It is, however, desirable that, in addition to the right of the supervisory board to remove a member of the managing board, the general meeting should retain its present right to remove the members of the managing board by ordinary majority.

3. The majority report further suggests a statutory clarification and definition of the duties and liabilities of directors. It bases its suggestions on recommendations of the Jenkins report which have not been given effect yet. This part of the report is non-controversial and commendable. The reform is overdue and, in the context of employee participation, necessary.

The majority report further rightly postulates that employee directors and co-opted directors shall have the same duties and be subject to the same liabilities as shareholder directors. That shall, in particular, here, be the duty of confidentiality and the prohibition of insider trading.

Further, the suggestions of the majority report on reporting back are unexceptionable. They will not require statutory regulation, but the practice will evolve the right balance between what can be reported back and what must remain confidential in the best interest of the company.

4. The proposed Bill will have to establish the general framework for the appointment of the employee directors. Here the majority proposes that the law "should merely lay on the recognized trade union in the company the responsibility to devise whatever method of selection seems most appropriate" (p 118).

This suggestion is manifestly unfair to non-unionized labour. The proposed Bill should provide that in companies in which no closed shop exists, a joint representation committee (JRC) shall be constituted on which the recognized unions and non-unionized labour in the company are proportionally represented.

The JRC should then devise the most appropriate method of selection. Such a statutory regulation would give the trade unions preponderance

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## Business Diary: FMF's Coffin • Sir Derek's new seam

sors want to lance with the y against high interests of in- junction. The Cyril Coffin as l of the Food Federation is a on of that cam-

n the Civil Ser- ie changing role ion from an in- to a lobby with



ffin: the politics

nsience. Coffin, 16 years in the f Food and has through the Trade and In- come an under- Department of nsurer Protec- of the Fair n. His successor

One of his contemporaries in the early days at the food ministry was Freddie Lawton, whom he will succeed as director-general in March. Lawton, who will retire at 62, joined the federation in 1948 and has been its chief executive for 23 years.

The arrival of a senior civil servant from the consumer protection ministry may help the federation to win active consumerists and break down their suspicion of industry. Coffin should be a formidable counterweight to the lobbying power of the farming unions, ductivity agreements which the NCB—and some miners—want, but which some of the NUM executive see as setting man against man?

One of his first tasks in the new job will be to meet his present boss, Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to discuss the shape of price controls after the present code ends in the summer.

Peacework

Sir Derek Ezra, the chairman of the National Coal Board, was in Sakhnovits mood when he delivered the latest of the luncheon talks on patriotism at the City Corporation Church of St Lawrence Jewry yesterday.

Patriotism, he said, was more readily expressed in time of war than of peace, but there was room nonetheless for "fears of valour" in the boardroom or the mine as well as on the battlefield.

There was a patriotism, expressed in devotion to where one lived or worked, that unified where patriotism based on nationalism divided.

But what, Business Diary asked him, if this local or workplace loyalty conflicts with wider allegiances?

Take, for example, the people living in and loyal to the Vale of Belvoir who do not want the NCB to mine the coal discovered there, coal the country needed?

Secondly, what if the way to those "fears of valour" at the coal face lay through the productivity agreements which the NCB—and some miners—want, but which some of the NUM executive see as setting man against man?

Sir Derek, too, did a hand at being easily drawn, said he recognized the conflict in the Vale of Belvoir between what was "industrially desirable and environmentally preferable" but was happy to leave the matter to a straightforward democratic procedure.

On productivity, he said he thought there would probably be a peaceful settlement since the miners' "terrific loyalty" to NUM executive recommendations was being balanced by a feeling that more power should be given to the pits.



Leyland Cars' John Neill: ambition fulfilled.

Catch 'em young  
Leyland Cars have just appointed their youngest managing director, so far. John Neill, 29-year-old graduate of the University of Strathclyde, is the new chief executive of the company's huge parts division.

With a turnover approaching £200m a year, and a very profitable record, it has a key role to play in the re-organization of the state-owned motor group.

boyhood ambition when he joined Leyland from the American-owned AC-Delco just over two years ago.

Last night he told Business Diary he had wanted to work for British Leyland as long as I can remember. I like their cars, and I like the idea of working for the British car company.

Neill undoubtedly owes his rapid promotion to his skill in introducing Unipart retail shops. In less than two years they have spread throughout Leyland's dealer network and later this month he will open the 400th Unipart shop.

For some time the City is irresistible. Malcolm Horne, the former Slater Henderson who resigned as chief executive of Bowater Corporation a year ago to devote his time to "academic pursuits", is back again. He's bought a 16.35 per cent stake in David Jones, a London-based group which has for some time been in dispute with Bank Bridge Securities over £700,000 which Dixon says it is owed.

## Dobson Park Industries

"Negligible gearing and considerable borrowing capabilities provide the ability to plan for real growth over the next few years"

C. F. Ward, Chairman

### FINANCIAL RESULTS

Group pre-tax profits for the past year amounted to £9,084,000 representing an increase of 13% compared with the previous year. Group sales at £80,744,000 were 14% more than the previous year.

Our investment in plant and buildings last year amounted to £3,639,000 and was comfortably financed from our own resources. We are budgeting for a similar size investment in the present financial year.

Negligible gearing and considerable borrowing capabilities gives us the ability to plan for real growth over the next few years.

### CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The board have given deep consideration to the future developments of the Group and have concluded that it is essential that we should have a broader operational base as well as developing the natural growth arising from our existing activities. Accordingly we have redefined our objectives and aims so that we can plan for the next few years.

Our objectives can be summarised as follows: To achieve a continuous improvement in profitability consistent with financial stability and an acceptable return on assets employed, but within the normal restraints borne by industrial enterprises. To give a high

standard of product, services and value. To bring benefit to the areas in which our operational units are located by having financially viable establishments.

Our main corporate aims will be: To broaden the product base of our mining machinery operations in order to develop a comprehensive worldwide machinery business in both coal and other forms of mining. To increase exports and foreign earnings throughout the Group. To seek acquisitions (both home and overseas) of reasonable size which will strengthen our existing or improve our market position. Such acquisitions will be in areas which will not depart from the Group's present type of business of mining and specialised engineering.

The Group has the financial strength to back these corporate plans and positive steps have been taken towards achieving our objectives.

A Mining and Specialised Engineering Group  
LONDON-NOTTINGHAM-WIGAN

Copies of the Report are available from:- The Secretary, Dobson Park Industries Limited, Dobson Park House, Colwick Industrial Estate, Nottingham NG4 2BX



# DECCA LIMITED

## INTERIM REPORT

Half year to 30th September, 1976

The profits of the Group for the half year to 30th September 1976, based on unaudited accounts, are set out below compared with the corresponding period of 1975 and the year 1975/76.

|   | Six months to 30th Sept 1976 | Six months to 30th Sept 1975 | Year to 31st March 1976 |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| GROUP TURNOVER—   |                              |                              |                         |
| Consumer Goods .....  | 35,900                       | 39,000                       | 81,800                  |
| Capital Goods .....   | 49,400                       | 39,300                       | 88,200                  |
| TOTAL .....   | 85,300                       | 78,300                       | 170,000                 |
| TRADING PROFIT before charging Depreciation, Interest and Taxation .....                  | 9,816                        | 9,174                        | 21,131                  |
| Less Depreciation and Amortisation .....  | 2,870                        | 2,509                        | 4,901                   |
| PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAXATION .....   | 6,946                        | 6,665                        | 16,230                  |
| Less Interest Payable (net) .....   | 1,447                        | 1,226                        | 2,635                   |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION .....  | 5,499                        | 5,439                        | 13,595                  |
| Provision for taxation .....  | 3,100                        | 2,875                        | 7,490                   |
| PROFIT AFTER TAXATION .....   | 2,399                        | 2,564                        | 6,105                   |
| Attributable to Minority Shareholders in Subsidiaries .....                               | 395                          | 200                          | 512                     |
| Special items—net effect of changes in foreign exchange rates on net current assets ..... | 7                            | 36                           | (226)                   |
| —expenditure on North Sea dry wells .....   | —                            | —                            | (4)                     |
| —net cost of factory closures .....   | —                            | (130)                        | (228)                   |
| NET PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO DECCA LTD .....  | 2,011                        | 2,270                        | 5,135                   |
| Comparative figures for profit before interest and taxation are:                          |                              |                              |                         |
| Consumer Goods .....  | 750                          | 2,043                        | 5,769                   |
| Capital Goods .....   | 6,196                        | 4,622                        | 10,461                  |
|   | 6,946                        | 6,665                        | 16,230                  |

Turnover and profits from capital goods increased substantially compared with the corresponding period of last year. Profits from consumer goods were lower because of reduced TV sales and lower profitability from records. Profits for the six months do not include the group's share of the results of associated companies.

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 3p per share (last year 2.7p) on the Ordinary and "A" Ordinary shares, each of 25p, to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 31st March 1977, payable on 28th April 1977, absorbing £564,290 (last year £507,861). The increased payment is intended to reduce the disparity between the interim and the final dividend.

Group pre-tax profits for the year to 31st March 1977 may be lower than for the previous year, mainly because of reduced profits from records and exceptional charges expected from an impending reorganisation of the U.S. radar company. Colour TV is currently showing a modest surplus while the capital goods sector continues its growth in turnover and profits.

8th February, 1977

# BAGGERIDGE BRICK COMPANY LIMITED

The Thirty-third Annual General Meeting of Baggeridge Brick Company Limited was held on 8th February at the Midland Hotel, Birmingham. The following is the statement by the Chairman, The Hon. P. A. Ward, circulated with the Report and Accounts.

## INCREASED PROFIT AND DIVIDEND

The profit before tax for the year ended 30th September, 1976 amounted to £303,176 compared with £230,102 for the previous year. After tax the profit was £144,520 compared to £107,961.

The Directors recommend the maximum dividend permitted of 8.3614%, which is an increase of 10% as compared with a rise in the retail index prices of 20%.

## DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNISATION CONTINUES

Throughout the year the sale of bricks from all works was most satisfactory. Our development programme enabled our sales prices to remain competitive and in particular excellent results were achieved at the Hartlebury works following the building of new kilns.

This policy of modernisation is being actively continued. At Baggeridge an old kiln is being replaced by a battery of new, all of which have been designed to produce more economically the high quality engineering bricks for which the Company is renowned.

## THE FUTURE

The economic crisis which is crippling this country is certain to affect building activity adversely in the coming year. Any advantage realised from our improvement schemes is bound to be offset by the expected slackening in demand for bricks coupled with alarming increases in fuel costs. Nevertheless every effort will be made by the Company to at least maintain its profit level.

On your behalf I express with gratitude our special thanks to all employed in the Company for their contribution to the greatly improved results achieved in the past year.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

# VIBROPLANT HOLDINGS LIMITED

Business: Plant Hire Specialists

## INTERIM STATEMENT

HALF YEAR TO 30th SEPTEMBER

|                                  | 1976      | 1975      |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Group Turnover                   | 3,082,627 | 2,825,959 |
| Unaudited Profit before Taxation | 864,959   | 913,587   |
| Corporation Tax 52%              | 449,779   | 475,066   |
| Group Profit after Tax           | 415,180   | 438,521   |

Cost of Dividend (after waivers) Net 128,700 107,250

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 3.575p per share which together with the Associated Tax Credit is equivalent to 5.5p per share (1975 5.5p per share). The Dividend is payable to those shareholders on the Register at the 25th February, 1977 and will be paid on the 7th March, 1977.

Registered Office—Prospect Road, Starbeck, Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

### Stock markets

# Pause for thought but no panic

Worries about inflation and the potential threat to the next phase of the incomes policy dominated sentiment in equities and kept investors on the sidelines. But falling interest rates helped gilts to make modest progress.

With little support the FT Index was 6.6 lower by 11 am and, in spite of a minor rally in mid-afternoon, closed 5.2 down to 323.3.

The market was in no mood to react strongly to a cautious, but generally optimistic survey of industrial trends from the CBI and most interest centred on results from Imperial Group and Decca.

The former produced figures much in line with expectations

Having climbed from 8p to 14p on Monday and bid, secondary bank CityHeldings eased 1p yesterday. The company claims no knowledge for the rise. Last year, Eagle Trust is believed to have been interested but was refused. It denied any interest yesterday. One stake in CityHeldings of 37.1 per cent held by the liquidated CIT Investments was placed, partly last year and partly last month. But apart from the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, now with 29.9 per cent, there was no single big buyer.

and the shares shaded firmer at 7.5p, but Decca's profits warning clipped 5p to 250p from the "A" shares. Long-dated gilts held steady after recovering early falls of around five-eighths, while "shorts" were generally just a fraction higher by the close. Tax considerations helped the Treasury 3 per cent, 1979, to rise £11 to 290.

Among the "blue chips" Fisons fared worst on United

States selling and ahead of figures due soon. The shares closed 8p lower at 320p and BAT Industries 5p to 250p, GKN 6p to 300p and Tube Investments 4p to 340p were others in retreat. But there were stronger performances from ICI, unchanged at 345p, and Courtaulds which closed just a point down at 103p.

In electricals, doubts raised by the Milgo offer left Rascal 2p lower at 273p, GEC eased 8p to 189p against the background of cash aid for the Meriden co-operative, while International Computers were lowered 7p to 185p. EMI closed 4p off at 221p.

The low-awaited quarterly figures from De La Rue fulfilled most expectations and the shares shot up 25p to 285p. But the result did little for other paper shares. Bowater 3p lower at 187p being typical.

In oils, BP was hit by overnight selling on Wall Street and fell 10p to 512p, Shell 8p to 512p and Ultramar 5p to 153p were also in reverse, but Tri-centrol put up a token resistance to the trend with a rise of 1p to 134p.

Sluggish retail sales figures did little for stores issues at the outset. Most rallied but W H Smith "A" 4p to 360p,

British Home 4p to 154p and Debenhams 2p to 73p, were left in lower ground.

FMC proved to be a weak spot, losing 5p to 70p, while P & O still bothered by rights issue talk, lost another 4p to 131p. Dupre, International, where the chairman says a decision on a rights will be taken soon, were unmoved at 8p.

In the financial sector, banks had a generally weak day with Lloyds off 8p to 200p, National Westminster 5p to 220p, Midland 4p to 263p and Barclays 2p to 250p. The discount houses continued to react to adverse comment, notably Union, off 10p to 305p, and Alexander's 5p to 215p. Other shares well down were Schroders 10p to 300p, Guinness Peat 5p to 153p and Hambros 5p to 165p.

In insurances, Hambro Life was lowered 5p to 200p and of the composites, Sun Alliance lost another 10p to 390p, making 13p off so far this week. Most properties got back early losses with Stock Conversion 3p down to 173p. Great Portland 2p to 216p and Sunley 2p to 127p being among the least resilient.

A firmer metal price brought

modest gains to gold shares. Faring better than most were West Driefontein, up 30p to £14.25 and Western Holdings 25p to £11.75. Golden Hope were at a firm 80p after the lapsing of the Genting offer.

In after-hour trading, movements were narrowly mixed. Some industrial leaders edged ahead and Rascal showed little

The market suspects that control of pharmaceutical group, Willows Francis will soon change hands. The word is that Churfirsten, a Swiss company with more than 30 per cent of the equity, will soon offer terms. Mr A. J. Cornforth, chairman, is also a director of Churfirsten. But no Willows director was available for comment last night. The shares rose 5p to 63p, up 11p in two days.

change after news of the new offer for Milgo. Banks and insurance gained ground, but oils eased further.

Royco's sale of its 410,000 shares in Lampa Securities could tip the scales in favour of its maintaining its dividend this year for a prospective yield, at 19p, of 17 per cent. The £150,000 profit Royco will show on the deal should lift the dividend cover to a more acceptable level. Royco closed at 18p, down 1p.

Equity turnover on February 7 was £61.2m (16,188 bargains). Active shares yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Shell, ICI, BAT, Biff, Burmah, BAT Ind, Rank, P & O, Lomro, Imperial Group, GKN, GEC, Becham, Distillers, Gus "A", Sarc, Rascal, Lucas, Booker Bros, Tecalemit and De La Rue.

## Latest dividends

| Company (and par value)     | Ord Div | Year ago | Pay date | Year's total | Prev year |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| Great Nicholson (10p) Fin   | 2.37    | 2.37     | 29/4     | 2.37         | 2.37      |
| Decca (25p) Int             | 1.87    | 1.87     | 31/3     | 1.87         | 1.87      |
| Dowry Group (50p) Int       | 1.98    | 1.98     | 1/4      | 1.98         | 1.98      |
| Drayton Inv (25p) Fin       | 4.6     | 4.6      | 1/4      | 4.6          | 4.6       |
| Glass & Morton (10p) Fin    | 1.5     | 1.5      | 1/4      | 1.5          | 1.5       |
| Hawthorn, Leslie Fin        | 2.85    | 2.85     | 1/4      | 2.85         | 2.85      |
| Imperial Group (25p) Fin    | 3.31    | 3.31     | 1/4      | 3.31         | 3.31      |
| Mann & Overton (25p) Fin    | 2.17    | 2.17     | 30/3     | 2.17         | 2.17      |
| West Trade (10p) Int        | 1.0     | 1.0      | 1/4      | 1.0          | 1.0       |
| J. Saville Gordon (10p) Int | 0.35    | 0.35     | 25/3     | 0.35         | 0.35      |
| Steinberg Gp (10p) Int      | 0.32    | 0.32     | 7/4      | 0.32         | 0.32      |
| Stewart Plastics (25p) Int  | 0.25    | 0.25     | 7/4      | 0.25         | 0.25      |

Dividends shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. Payment increased to reduce disparity between payments. † Adjusted for scrip.

# Crest Nicholson over £1m and ready to expand

In its best year since 1973 when pre-tax profits were a peak £2.6m, Crest Nicholson pushed them up 25 per cent to £1.2m in the year to October 31. Turnover of this property and leisure group rose 14 per cent to £2.4m.

Mr L. Donne, chairman, says that in mixed trading, the property interests did excellently. Their profits more than doubled to £700,000.

Earnings a share went up from 2.94p to 5.08p, and the dividend is 4.53p against 3.49p gross.

The chairman adds that better turnover and profits came from the industrial side, but a recovery in leisure has yet to appear in profits.

Crest now has no borrowings, against £4.5m two years ago. Its strong liquid position and confidence gives the group "a great chance to expand", Mr Donne says.

## Strength to strength at Noble Grossart

A bumper profit was made by Noble Grossart in the year to January 1, 1977; and Mr Angus Grossart, managing director, sees every reason for confidence.

Pre-tax profits of this Edinburgh-based private banking group rose from £730,500 to £885,000. In September Mr Grossart said that profits would be "comfortably in excess" of last year's.

He adds that benefits of the early commitment to oil and gas brings increasing benefits every year.

Banking, investment financing and corporate finance also did better.

Sir Hugh Fraser resigned as a director in November, after 12½ per cent stake was placed with insurances.

## Comalco has strong final quarter

Sydney.—Production of bauxite and primary aluminium at Australia's Comalco rose strongly in the final quarter of 1976 from a year earlier.

Comalco said that total bauxite output last year rose 100,201 tonnes from a year ago to 9.64m tonnes.

Bauxite production in the final quarter was 47.7 per cent higher than in the same months of 1975, and rose from 1.7m tonnes to 2.5m.

Overseas shipments of bauxite dropped slightly to 9,059,324 tonnes in 1976 from 9.1m a year earlier.

Comalco added that its primary aluminium output rose from 137,544 tonnes in 1975 to 160,498 last year at its

smelter in Tasmania, and from its half share at the Bluff smelter in New Zealand.

Aluminium output in the final quarter of 1976 rose 19.5 per cent to 42,049 tonnes.

## Stewart Plastics starts well

Stewart Plastics continues to go from strength to strength. Last year's 10 per cent rise to record pre-tax profits of £1.21m pales before a 38 per cent increase to £709,000 in the six months to October 31.

This first-half record reflected a turnover gain of 37 per cent to £2.56m.

It also included £3,000 from the sale of assets and £113,500, against £80,000, of interest receivable.

The board has reverted to a policy of paying both interim and final dividends. So shareholders will receive an interim of 1.54p gross, against a single payment of 3.86p last year.

## Loss making Hawthorn misses dividend

Turnover rose usefully from £3.26m to £4.23m in the year to June 30, last, at R. and W. Hawthorn, Leslie, the shipbuilding and engineering group.

But the pre-tax loss, this swelled from £252,000 to £271,000. Even more ominously, there is no dividend against 2.31p gross last time.

Hawthorn did make a trading profit of £170,000, but it was a shadow of the £1.1m of the year before. This time round, the provision for possible losses on work in progress fell from £314,000 to only £8,000, but development spending jumped from £241,000 to £454,000.

## Tough trading no bar to Saville Gordon

Tough markets did not stop the pre-tax profits of J. Saville Gordon Group, the Birmingham-based metal and engineers' merchants, from improving by 16 per cent to £451,836 in the first half-year to October 31, 1976. Turnover rose by 32 per cent to £12.51m.

The gross interim dividend duly rises from 0.53p (adjusted) to 0.61p. Last year's total was 2.01p and it was paid after record pre-tax profits of £867,884.

In his annual statement in September, Mr J. D. Saville, chairman, said that he was confident that the group's profits would once again be improved.

Now, he says that during the

first half-year, metal and commodity prices fluctuated dramatically, and sterling remained under pressure. So market conditions for the metal trading and processing companies were "extremely difficult".

The engineers' merchants and steeling companies also experienced tough times. They traded against a background of industry working well below capacity and government restrictions on capital spending.

## Dobson Park in good trim

Mining machinery and engineering group Dobson Park Industries, which put up pre-tax profits 13 per cent to £9.08m in the year to October 2, against a background of recession and sterling crises, faces another challenging year.

But Mr C. F. Ward, the incoming chairman, believes that the group now has the structure and management to cope with expansion. Much depends on the expected upturn in the economy and the impact of public expenditure curbs.

Meanwhile demand for home mining machinery is not so good. The associates company, German, is also finding business tough.

On the other hand world-wide prospects for increased coal production offer opportunities for exports of mining machinery. Overseas demand for other products, particularly the Kangas hammer and Petite typewriter, is also "very encouraging".

## Meat Trade Suppliers

Meat Trade Suppliers ended the half-year to September 30 virtually where it began. Turnover was £4.46m, against £4.27m, and pre-tax profits were £201,000, against £202,000.

The gross interim payment drops from 5.38p to 5p, but the board states that this does not necessarily indicate that the year's total will be less than that for the year before. The group covers meat and allied products.

## Local authorities

The interest rate on this week's issue of local authority bonds has slipped from 12 per cent to 11½ per cent. The biggest borrower is Glasgow with £2m, while Cleveland, Isleworth, Maclefield, Reading, Sunderland and Wavney are raising £1m apiece.

## M & S export aim

Marks & Spencer is aiming for exports of £100m a year

## Alcan (UK) in £16m rebound from red

A turnaround from a loss of £5.9m to a pre-tax profit of £10m is reported by Alcan Aluminium (UK) for 1976. This is after provision for a possible exchange loss of £2.2m compared with £1.3m. With a recovery in demand for aluminium, the directors say that that past year has been one of gradual progressive improvement after the deep recession of 1975.

Turnover in 1976 was up 43 per cent to £227m and sales volume increased 22 per cent. Direct exports from Britain were to 77 countries.

Costs rose rapidly during the year from inflation and the impact of devaluation on the cost of imported materials. The return to profitability was achieved, the directors add, by a combination of increased volume and a "modest" improvement in margins. Meanwhile 1977 has started with a good order-book at home and steadily improving export orders.

# De La Rue's wallet full of banknotes

By Richard Allen

The shares in De La Rue, the banknote printer, leapt ahead on news of third quarter profits more than £1m above most market expectations.

In the three months to December 31, pre-tax profits of £6.35m were more than twice those of the same period the year before. Sales were 34 per cent up at £45m.

Total profits for the first three quarters were £14.76m against £5.3m last time and total sales were 38 per cent better at £121m.

The breakthrough stemmed largely from the banknote and security printing division which helped to hoist export sales 59 per cent to £16.3m. De La Rue does not give details of individual contracts but it is thought that this division is currently benefiting from one Far Eastern banknote order worth around £7m.

But the 60 per cent

Formica subsidiary showed signs of recovery first quarter is still having

culities after the relapse second three months, reflected in a minority of £20,000 compared with debit of £204,000 for the three quarters.

The group reports that in Australia an Zealand have proved

lately sluggish though it now signs that markets are

Europe and Spain in lar are still proving

After tax of £2.7m minority credit attr earnings were £2.75m £1.3m for the three months against £2.2m three quarters. Earnings for the nine months 37p against 14.1p after

ment for the rights is March.

# Mann & Overton surprised with 74pc profit leap

The climbing shares in Mann & Overton per further support yesterday when the London tax-cab specialist turned in better-than-expected results for the year to October 31.

News of a 74 per cent jump to a pre-tax profit of £927,000 added 5p to the shares bringing them to 78p, a 13p rise in a week.

Part of the interest in the group centres on the relationship with Winn Industries,

which recently raised : from 18 to 21 per cent

Turnover for the year per cent to £6.4m. Ne rose from £87,000 to

and the dividend mov 4.78p to 5.26p gross, it

July, the board f "significant improvem profits, but a second 1 of 106 per cent to £529 more than dealers b for.

## Margins dip at P. Brotherhood

With the order book showing signs of improvement, Peter Brotherhood has finished the six months to September 30 with a pre-tax profit 17 per cent up at £490,000. Turnover rose 39 per cent to £7.2m pointing to a fall in margins from 9.23 per cent to 8.76 per cent.

Part of the machinery and power plant maker says that turnover is influenced by delivery dates of individual contracts.

## Genting aid to G. Hope lapses

Genting Highlands' Malaysian hotels and group, announced that its 96p a share for Golden Hope had

day after the Harrison sian Estates share sw for Golden Hope.

Asian Rubber and and Fawcett Rubber had gone unconditionally

Genting, however, to decide what to do 22 per cent holding it's ciates have in Golde

# MINING SUPPLIES

LIN

## Firm indications at end of half-y

| 26 week period ended                                 | 30th Oct. 1976 | 25th Oct.  |
|--|----------------|------------|
| Sales  | £5,798,000     | £5,100,000 |
| Consolidated trading profit before taxation (Note 1) | 507,000        | 410,000    |
| Taxation (Note 2)                                    | 279,000        | 210,000    |
| Consolidated profit after taxation                   | £228,000       | £200,000   |

(Figures subject to year-end audit)  
1) The consolidated trading profit before taxation is after charging depreciation of (1975 £152,000).  
2) The provision for taxation has been calculated at 52% on the trading profit for the period for taxation purposes.

"The results for the first 26 weeks are slightly less than the corresponding period last year, due principally to a reduction in the N.C.B. in the first 13 weeks, which also to the summer holidays. The second 13 weeks recovered to record turnover which continues at that level with a firm indication of a further advance on new designed products."

Your Directors are continuing for the time being the policy of paying a final dividend only."

A. Snipe—Ch

# MEARS

## Extracts from Chairman's Statement and Annual Report

£916,000 profit before tax considerably exceeds anything previously achieved by the company.

|  |  |  |                      |        |
|--|--|--|----------------------|--------|
| * Mears Construction Ltd has achieved substantially improved results. Work in hand for 1977 at a satisfactory level and recent contract awards will lay foundation for continuity of work over next 2-3 years. | Salient figures:   |  | Year ended 30th Sept |        |
|  |  |  | 1976                 | 1975   |
|  | Group turnover   |  | 2000                 | 2000   |
|  | Group profit before tax and extraordinary items                                |  | 46,067               | 41,836 |
|  | Group profit after tax before extraordinary items                              |  | 316                  | 306    |
| * Turnover and profits of A. Long & Co. Ltd., continue to grow at substantial rate. All divisions trading at high level.   | Surplus on revaluation of property less provision for taxation                 |  | 373                  | 118    |
|  | Surplus on disposal of M.B. Dredging Co. Ltd.                                  |  | 599                  | —      |
|  | Interim Dividend   |  | 52                   | 47     |
|  | Proposed Dividend  |  | 73                   | 66     |
| * In the Middle East A. Long International has doubled profits in the last year. Confidence that increased investment in management and facilities will be well rewarded.                                      | Earnings per share based on group profit after tax, before extraordinary items |  | 5.33p                | 1.69p  |
|  | Balance sheet  |  |                      |        |
|  | Shareholders funds   |  | 3,822                | 3,035  |
|  | Deferred taxation  |  | 1,505                | 745    |
|  | Loans and other finance  |  | 892                  | 491    |
|  | Bank overdrafts  |  | 410                  | 1,025  |
|  |  |  | 6,629                | 5,296  |
| * Mears International currently tendering for major contracts in Iraq and lower Gulf area. Expected that award of contracts in near future will compensate for any reduction in U.K. construction activity.    | Fixed assets:  |  |                      |        |
|  | Properties   |  | 2,560                | 1,557  |
|  | Plant and equipment  |  | 2,058                | 1,323  |
|  |  |  | 4,618                | 2,880  |
| * Hope that Mears Developments Ltd will be able shortly to announce award of overseas contracts for their pre-fabricated housing systems.  | Net current assets   |  | 2,011                | 2,416  |
|  |  |  | 6,629                | 5,296  |
| * Group is well managed and, as Balance  |  |  |                      |        |



# FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Low Glass & Metal ascends its fourth peak in a row

expected at half time of Metal Holdings, was another record. Turnover for the year to October 31, 1976, was £11.45 million, an increase of 21 per cent on £9.45 million. Earnings per share were 8.1p to 10p, and the dividend rises from 3.84p to 4.5p.

The fourth peak profit from Glass and Metal, plastics and engineering, said in July that trading profit should be satisfactory. The shares slipped yesterday.

### Estate is confident

record year, Warner Holdings, chairman, Sir Roger Warner, is confident that it will also be a record year.

ear to September 30, profits continued from the Waltham estate. Holdings, which have discharged all its and it now has all available for purchases. Mr. Warner says that these profits are a result of the property investment since the company has bought £300,000 of Gas Stock 1990-95. The rates almost double those of the group's stock.

### re recovering

is under way at the clothing group. It is pre-tax profits of £140,000 in the half-year to

September 25, it made profits before tax of £102,000. Those were against only £15,000 in the first half of the year before. Turnover went up from £7.48m to £9.11m. But shareholders will get an unchanged gross interim dividend of 0.49p.

### Cash call decision coming from Duple

Mr Gordon Hay, chairman, told the annual meeting that the cash call decision of the group has a full order book for the year. Given a clear run, profitability should increase to the levels already budgeted.

On the engineering side the Grosvenor and Muschamp subsidiaries had an order book which should ensure a profit, while the Barrow Engineering and J. B. Hyde subsidiaries should show a "considerable" profit.

Mr Hay added that rights issue had been thoroughly discussed with the group's advisers and he hoped a decision would be reached within the next two or three weeks. Subsequently, the board should be in a position to make a more definitive announcement "in about two months' time".

### Booker McConnell

Now that Booker McConnell has bought Kinloch (Provision Merchants), the retail business of Kinloch-Murdoch Norton and Rusts—is to operate as part of Booker McConnell's retail food business. This is Booker McConnell's chief executive, Mr J. A. Emeny, at present managing director of Murdoch Norton and Rusts, becomes

managing director, responsible for the trading activities, of Booker Belmont Retail.

### Belhaven real ale booster

A 50 per cent increase in production capacity is planned by real ale producer Belhaven Brewery to life its potential to 15 million pints annually by 1979. Sales at the brewery, near Edinburgh, rose by 43 per cent in 1976 against a national average increase in sales for the brewing industry of only 1.65 per cent. Sales continue to go well.

Finance for the expansion of what is now Scotland's only remaining independent real ale producer will come from profits allied to the sale of low-yield properties and the conversion of existing short-term loans into medium-term finance.

The expansion marks the final phase in the reorganization of the activities of its parent company CCB Investments.

### Aluminium Corp

Last year, Aluminium Corporation's sales grew from £52.3m to £56.8m, but pre-tax profits tumbled from £38,000 to £706,000. The gross dividend rose up from 4.53p to 4.99p. Aluminium Corporation is controlled by British Aluminium, which recently made an offer for the minority.

### Gulf Oil improves

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Earnings of Gulf Oil Corporation improved last year, with a 16.6 per cent during 1976 to \$816m (£476m) or \$4.19 per share, representing the second highest

earnings in the company's history. Revenue for the year increased 15 per cent to \$4.44m.

### Anglo-African Finance

In the half-year to July 19, 1976, pre-tax profits of Anglo-African Finance Co reached £148,000, compared with £237,000 for the previous half. Anglo-African has increased its holdings in Dent Fowles by purchases in the market and now owns 44.5 per cent of the equity.

The Textile Investment Co, in which Anglo-African has a substantial interest, also owns 26.98 per cent. The board of Dent Fowles have forecast an interim dividend in May, 1977, and will recommend a final dividend in January, 1978, of thereabouts, totalling 8.4 per cent, net, for year, the maxi-

mum allowed under present legislation. They have also indicated that they intend to change the name of the company to Devhew and Dent.

### Romaji Tea and Majuli Tea to merge

Romaji Tea Holdings and Majuli Tea Holdings have agreed to merge on terms to be implemented by Romaji, making an offer to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of Majuli (other than the shares which it already owns) on the following basis: for every 10 ordinary shares of £1 of Majuli, seven shares of £1 of Romaji. Romaji holds 32,500 ordinary

shares of £1 of Majuli, whose issued share capital consists of 350,000 ordinary shares of £1 each.

### Jaycee Furniture

Largest United Kingdom period-style furniture maker and exporter Jaycee Furniture, Brighton, had a record turnover of £6.57m (up 10 per cent on 1975) and pre-tax profits of £561,603 for the year ended September 30, 1976. Exports increased by 6.7 per cent to £3.67m. The chairman and managing director, Dr. Chue Cohen, regards the figures as particularly good in view of both sterling devaluation, which increased the imported raw materials costs, and sluggish demand from most markets during the first eight months of 1976.

## Borough of Torbay OFFER OF LEASE

### The Beacon Leisure and Entertainment Centre The Harbour Torquay

Situated in possibly the most valuable location of its kind on Britain's coastline, the Borough of Torbay invite tenders for a long lease, not exceeding 99 years, of this recently completed £1½ million development.

Details from: The Estate Surveyor, Town Hall, Torquay, Devon. Telephone: (0803) 26244, Ext. 257. Telex 42929.



## NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

## Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

### 8% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1971 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$6,000,000 principal amount bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on March 15, 1977 (\$3,000,000 principal amount through operation of the mandatory Sinking Fund and \$3,000,000 principal amount through operation of the optional Sinking Fund) at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date:

### DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      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